





## HOME NEWS

## Photograph taken of Nato radar antenna, secrets case QC says

By Craig Seton

Duncan Campbell, one of the three defendants in the Official Secrets Act case, was said by the prosecution at the Central Criminal Court yesterday to have tried to discover the layout and function of the United Kingdom's defence communications system and to have collected a vast amount of photographs, documents, sketches and diagrams.

Mr John Leonard, QC, for the Crown, told the jury on the second day of the trial that much of the information Mr Campbell, a freelance writer, had in his possession had already been published, but he had used his skill to fit together pieces of a jigsaw to present a picture that might be valuable to a potential enemy.

What he had done, Mr Leonard said, went beyond the ordinary inquisitiveness of a journalist. He had related material to geographical locations and had added a good deal of interpretation to enlarge the scope of the information.

Mr Campbell, aged 25, of Brighton who now writes for the *New Statesman*, is on trial with John Berry, aged 34, a former corporal in the Intelligence Corps, of Wood Green, London, and Crispin Aubrey, aged 32, a journalist with the magazine *Time Out*, of Finchley, London. They have pleaded not guilty to all the charges.

The Crown has alleged that Mr Berry gave information to the two journalists about Britain's signals intelligence organization which could have been prejudicial to the safety or interest of the State.

Mr Leonard said that when Mr Campbell's home in Brighton was searched, correspondence, documents, sketches, diagrams, press cuttings and other material were found, together with a camera and five lenses. There were also 70 colour slides and 18 photographs.

He referred the jury to a "photographic schedule" and map of the United Kingdom which, he said, showed 52 locations, 32 of which were Post Office structures or stations. All but one or two of them carried radio traffic that was part of the United Kingdom defence communications system.

Between February 14 and 19, 1977, did an act preparatory to the commission of an offence under section 2(1)(A) of the Official Secrets Act, by making an appointment between Berry and Campbell to enable Berry to unlawfully communicate information to Campbell.

On or about February 18, 1977, did an act preparatory to the commission of an offence under section 2(2) of the Official Secrets Act, by making an appointment between Berry and Campbell to enable Berry to unlawfully communicate information to Campbell.

On or about February 18, 1977, did an act preparatory to the commission of an offence under section 2(1)(C) of the Official Secrets Act, by making an appointment between Berry and Campbell to enable Berry to unlawfully communicate information to Campbell.

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New consumer movement handbooks aim to bring companies to public accountability  
How to keep an eye on the responsibilities of industry

By Robin Young

Consumer Affairs

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Accountants may still demur from describing the approach as an audit, but it presents an important challenge to business standards.

Originally, the consumer movement was concerned with comparative testing. The Consumers' Association magazines are called *Which?* not *Why?*

The movement's later development was toward legislation and business regulation. Seven pieces of consumer legislation have followed each other in the statute book in swift succession, and codes of practice proliferate as fast as the Office of Fair Trading can produce them.

But books of rules have limited value. 14 per cent of the consumer complaints received by the Office of Fair Trading concern breaches of law. The trouble with unsatisfactory self-regulation, as some businessmen have admitted, is that the standards laid down are likely to be those a responsible company observes anyway, but more than an irresponsible company is willing to observe without coercion.

Social Audit's intention is to take the consumer movement into a third area: public accountability. The books published yesterday are intended to prompt people to ask pertinent questions and gather relevant information which, the authors suggest, has been denied to the public.

Mr Charles Medawar, the author of one, says the fault of the business system has been the abuse of secrecy, and therefore of power: consumers are deluged with misinformation, but frequently denied the information they need and want.

Mr Maurice Frankel, author of the second book, argues: "Those who take decisions that affect the health of others should not be allowed to protect themselves from informed comment or criticism by withholding information. Secrecy about hazards in and around industry is widespread."

Mr Medawar's book is a general introduction for consumers on the manufacture and

marketing of the goods they buy, and how to find out more about the process.

Mr Frankel's is intended as a guide to gathering and interpreting information about factory pollution. It is addressed partly to the safety representatives whom workers will be able to appoint from October 1 and who will have a right to information from employers about health hazards at work.

It will also help people living near polluting factories and those concerned about the environment in general, to take advantage of the previously confidential information about industry's environmental impact, which will become available because of the Health and Safety at Work Act.

Both authors question whether business and industry merit the good opinion they have of themselves. They admit that there might be difficulty in knowing precisely what standards can be expected, but Mr Medawar puts it, they think it is almost always possible to recognize irresponsible behaviour if there is adequate disclosure of information.

Mr Medawar also believes that an alliance between the consumer movement and the labour movement is possible, on the ground that bad purchases are as bad as a 'our in pay'.

But probably the team's best hope lies in a thought put forward by Mr Zealley, whose experience is that the tax-savings guide in *Money Which?* is studied and used by accountants. In the same way the new Social Audit handbooks might be read and studied in industry, and the idea that decision-making might be subject to the sort of public scrutiny the authors suggest, may serve to improve the decisions arrived at.

The Social Audit Consumer Handbook: *A Guide to the Social Responsibilities of Business to the Consumer*, by Charles Medawar (Macmillan, 95p hard cover, 35p paperback).

The Social Audit Pollution Handbook: *How to Assess Environmental and Workplace Pollution*, by Maurice Frankel (Macmillan, 100p hard cover, 35p paperback).

## Sinn Fein chief freed from IRA charges

From Alan Hamilton

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Mr Gerard Adams, a leading member of Provisional Sinn Féin in Northern Ireland, was freed at Belfast by the British yesterday after Sir Robert Lowry, the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, ruled that there was insufficient evidence to sustain charges against him of belonging to the Provisional IRA.

Sir Robert, after hearing the outline of the Crown's case, said he was conducting an ordinary criminal trial, not a political one, and that normal rules of evidence should apply.

He said: "The accused may be a member of the IRA or he may not. He is clearly a member of Sinn Féin and holds an important role. Of the television speech, he said: 'Fighting talk is the current coin of politics, especially revolutionary politics.'"

Most of the case against Mr Adams rested on witness accounts of his participation in a republican parade at the Maze prison, Long Kesh, and a video-tape recording of an interview with him on the BBC television programme *Tonight*, shown on December 10.

The trial was held under the Emergency Provisions Act, with 10 jury members. Mr Adams was charged with belonging to the Provisional IRA, a proscribed organisation, and with inciting others to do so. He was also charged with belonging to the Provisional IRA.

At an earlier hearing, the Crown alleged that Mr Adams, aged 30, was a brigade commander of the Provisional IRA in Belfast. He was charged with inciting others to do so. He was also charged with belonging to the Provisional IRA.

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## HOME NEWS

## Violence in children's television is defended

By Kenneth Cosling  
Miss Monica Sims, head of BBC Television children's programmes and chairman of a new committee that will examine violence on television, said yesterday that where violence occurs in a children's programme it is generally there for a justifiable reason and not for gratuitousness.

Miss Sims, introducing the round and winter programmes for children, said many people expressed dismay at the amount of children's viewing. "This is clearly worrying if it prevents more creative activities, but I am more concerned in the one-sidedness of children's choice of evening programmes," she said.

"We cannot wrap children in cotton wool or stifle their imaginations with an output restricted to cosy or sentimental nursery, happy clowns or cute puppets. Children are hungry for a range of all kinds and they need programmes that can help them to face reality and extend their imaginations."

They had known for years that children's viewing was not confined to programmes specially made for them or those intended for early evening viewing.

One edition of *Star Trek* and *Star Wars* was watched last winter by 65 per cent of children aged between five and 15. Michael Crawford's *Some Mothers Do 'em* would probably attract more than half of all children, he said, and it returned this autumn, and feature films would continue to have many children in the audience.

Most of the familiar programmes will be returning, with *Blue Peter* celebrating its twentieth birthday next month. A pre-election survey by the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association reports today that there was also overwhelming support for the retention of the *Jackanory* law.

Figures based on replies from 80 MPs, including 172 Conservatives, also show a majority in support of broadcasting being brought under the Obscene Publications Act, the retention in broadcasting of a daily act of censorship, and of parents being told in advance of the nature and content of sex education.

## BBC blamed for drain of Scottish talent

From Our Correspondent  
Edinburgh

Mr Alastair Hetherington, Controller of the BBC in Scotland, yesterday criticized the organization in London for its refusal to accept Scottish-made programmes for national broadcasting.

That led to a drain of talent from Scotland to the south, something the Annan committee on broadcasting had given a warning about, he said.

He was speaking at a press conference in Edinburgh at which the views of the National Broadcasting Council for Scotland and the White Paper on the future of broadcasting were outlined by Professor Alan Thomson, chairman of the council.

"It remains the council's view that vigorous action is still needed so that Scottish broadcasters may share in the BBC's high standards," Professor Thomson said.

Mr Hetherington said an act of faith was needed in London. He complained bitterly that London judged Scottish programmes "doubly harshly".

## Wales Gas halts advertising after paper's criticism

From Our Correspondent  
Llandudno

Wales Gas has stopped advertising in a local newspaper after an editorial that attacked senior management took exception to a headline saying "Time to put the boot in" and a reference to "kicks up the backside".

Wales Gas says it is reporting North Wales Weekly News, which is published at Llandudno Junction and has a circulation of 28,000 copies, to the Press Council. In turn, it is being reported to the council over the withdrawal of advertising.

Mr John Tanner, the newspaper's editor, said yesterday: "Our criticism has been no more stringent than criticism that has appeared throughout the media. I think it is disgraceful that Wales Gas should attempt to censor the way

## Nurse with 'sadistic streak'

From Our Correspondent  
Sheffield

Kathleen Moran, aged 24, of Charles Street, Thurcroft, Rotherham; Mavis Bamford, aged 39, of Coronation Terrace, Austerefield, Doncaster; Krystina Ann Fowkes, aged 23, of Laughton Road, Dinnington, Rotherham; Barry Saxby, aged 37, of Partridge Place, Aston, Rotherham; and Ann Fowler, aged 42, of Manor Road, Wales, near Sheffield; and Paula Staniland, aged 32, of Storth Lane, Kiverton Park, Rotherham are all accused of ill-treating patients at Wales Court Hospital, between April 1975 and August 1976. Mr Saxby and Paula Staniland are also accused of wilful neglect. They have all pleaded not guilty.

The trial continues today.

## £15m plan to improve inner cities announced

By Christopher Warman  
Local Government Correspondent

A £15m scheme to smarten up 29 English inner cities was announced yesterday by Mr Peter Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment.

The scheme, to be spread over three and a half years, is aimed at improving the visual environment of the districts in which the Government's partnership and programme authorities operate.

Mr Shore said at a press conference that he had hoped to announce the scheme before the summer parliamentary recess, but it had not been quite ready. It represented only a minor addition to the main programmes to help inner-city areas.

The scheme will be operated by the district councils which will be able to spend the money on clearing rubbish from waste land and waterways, planting grass, trees and shrubs, erecting street furniture and painting buildings, putting up fences and demolishing unwanted structures.

Mr Shore said: "Anyone who knows the inner-city areas will know that there are pockets of land that are shabby and abandoned, and that has effects not only on those who live and work there but also on those who might seek to invest."

Mr Shore is encouraging the councils to involve the local community as much as possible, including voluntary groups and the special temporary employment programme of the Manpower Services Commission.

## Jeers and catcalls for envoy

From Our Correspondent  
Glasgow

Mr Maribys Bothe, the South African Ambassador, left Glasgow city chambers yesterday to jeers, catcalls and abuse from left-wing demonstrators after spending two and a half hours with Mr David Hodge, the lord provost, who entertained him at a luncheon which had provoked protest from Labour Party members.

Glasgow City Labour Party, the Scottish TUC and many of its affiliated trade unions, and the Glasgow Anti-Apartheid Movement had all expressed their hopes for a massive demonstration against the visit of the ambassador, because of South Africa's treatment of black Africans, and the jailing of those who opposed apartheid.

Fewer than 500 took part in a very subdued protest. Many carried placards, and there were the usual red flags, but it appeared that it was left to the extreme left-wing political fringe groups to make their voices heard.

Policemen had pent the demonstrators behind steel barriers, with mounted police at opposite sides of the square, leaving about a dozen officers to cope with the crowd.

A senior police officer said there had been no arrests and that he was pleased at the way things had gone.

The chaos and catcalls were directed at the ambassador as he stepped outside the building with the lord provost. Later, Mr Hodge, who has been under threat of severe reprimand from his Labour group and of expulsion from the Labour Party, said he thought the demonstration, although "a bit vulgar at times", had not been led for a city of nearly a million people.

He said it was a courtesy visit and that he was merely carrying out his duty as lord provost of the city.

"I regard the involvement of the community as specially important because the more that people can contribute to a project of this kind the better the results are likely to endure," Mr Shore said.

The government plan differs from a previous attempt to clean up the environment about six years ago. Then nearly 500 authorities applied, including those in rural areas. "The result was a rushed job and a lot of schemes got done which were superficial and barely worth while," Mr Shore said.

Out of the total expenditure of £15m, the local authorities concerned will have to find a quarter, the rest will attract a government grant. The allocation is £2m for this year, £5m in 1979-80 and in 1980-81, and £1m in the final year. The first two sums have been amalgamated and Mr Shore has already allocated them with sums varying from £750,000 (Liverpool), and £500,000 (Newcastle upon Tyne and Gateshead), to £100,000 (Greenwich). Scheme welcomed: The Government's plans were welcomed by Mr Nicholas Hinton, director of the National Council of Social Service, who said: "Improving waste land and buildings in inner-city areas is crucial to instilling a sense of confidence in the future of these areas (the Press Association reports)."

"It must not be yet another example of a decision taken at the top to spend millions of taxpayers' money with little or no consultation with those who live, work and invest in our inner cities," Mr Hinton said.



Sharron Davies, the British swimmer, helping Philip Smith, aged three, of Bromley, London, to swim at the launching of a joint Cadbury Ltd and Amateur Swimming Association scheme at Seymour Hall, St Marylebone.

## Guide for JPs on personal injury awards

By Our Crime Reporter

The Magistrates' Association published a table of guidelines yesterday to help its members to decide the amounts they should award to victims of personal injury. The aim is to remove inconsistencies in awards and cover injuries that might fall beneath the minimum of £150 set by the Criminal Injuries Board.

At the same time the awards would go some way towards handling situations in which a

victim cannot afford the process of civil law.

The table, issued with the guidelines lists injuries ranging from a bruise to the loss of a tooth, scarring, head injuries and fractures. The suggested sum for a grade is £10, while scarring could produce an award of up to £150 depending on such things as the age and sex of the victim or the position of the scar.

The association has suggested that the police officer

concerned with a complaint could take down details of the injuries on a simple form at the time a complaint is made. The form could be produced in court as proof of injury.

The guidelines were drawn up by a committee of the association after criticism that the power to make awards was not being used as much as it might. The association thought that was happening because courts lacked both information and experience.

## Teacher in sex case cleared

John Adamson, aged 25, was cleared by a jury at Hamilton Sheriff Court, Strathclyde, yesterday, of having unlawful sexual intercourse with two girls, aged 13.

Mr Adamson, a teacher, of Milton Terrace, Hamilton, had denied charges of having had unlawful intercourse with the two girls and lodged a special defence of alibi.

## In brief

## Water plant damaged

Costly electronic equipment at a water treatment works at Elvington, near York, is to be replaced because a leak in a chlorine pipe was not immediately detected.

Yorkshire Water Authority experts were ordered yesterday to report on the cause. Automatic operation of the works, which supplies Sheffield and the Yorkshire grid, is no longer possible.

## Chain-saw raid charge

Anthony George Knightly, aged 33, of Approach Road, Bethnal Green, London, was remanded in custody until tomorrow by Epsom magistrates yesterday, accused of being involved in last month's chain-saw raid on a security van at Banstead.

## Supporters fined £1,420

Sixteen football supporters were fined a total of £1,420 by Portsmouth magistrates yesterday when they were charged with offences arising out of the Portsmouth and Chelsea friendly match at Fratton Park on August 15.

## Actor stays away

The producers of the London stage play *Slough* said yesterday that they had been told that Mr Patrick Macnee, star of *The New Avengers* television programme, would not be taking over the leading role in the production as he would not be coming to England for tax reasons.

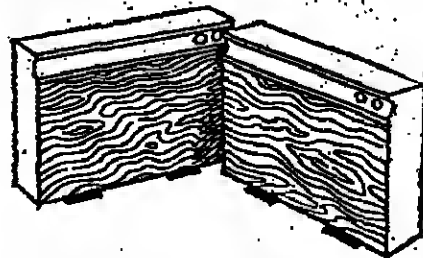
## ECONOMY 7

## Electricity's new low-price off-peak tariff: how it works, and how it can save you money.

Economy Seven is a completely new off-peak tariff for electric storage heating and water heating.

It gives you seven hours of night off-peak electricity at just over a penny a unit. That's a lower rate than any other domestic tariff.

So if you already have electric storage heating and/or water heating, on a tariff that gives you off-peak electricity at night only without a daytime boost, it could pay you to switch to Economy Seven right away.



If you have a daytime boost then your tariff has already been kept as low as possible by passing on cost savings in advance of the new tariff, but your Electricity Board will be pleased to advise on how you too might get benefit from Economy Seven.

And if you're planning to start electric central heating, then Economy Seven will give you your off-peak units at the lowest possible rate.

And that's only the start of Economy Seven's economies.

During off-peak hours, Economy Seven means lower running costs for everything electric in your home, for example your fridge and freezer which continue to operate during the night.

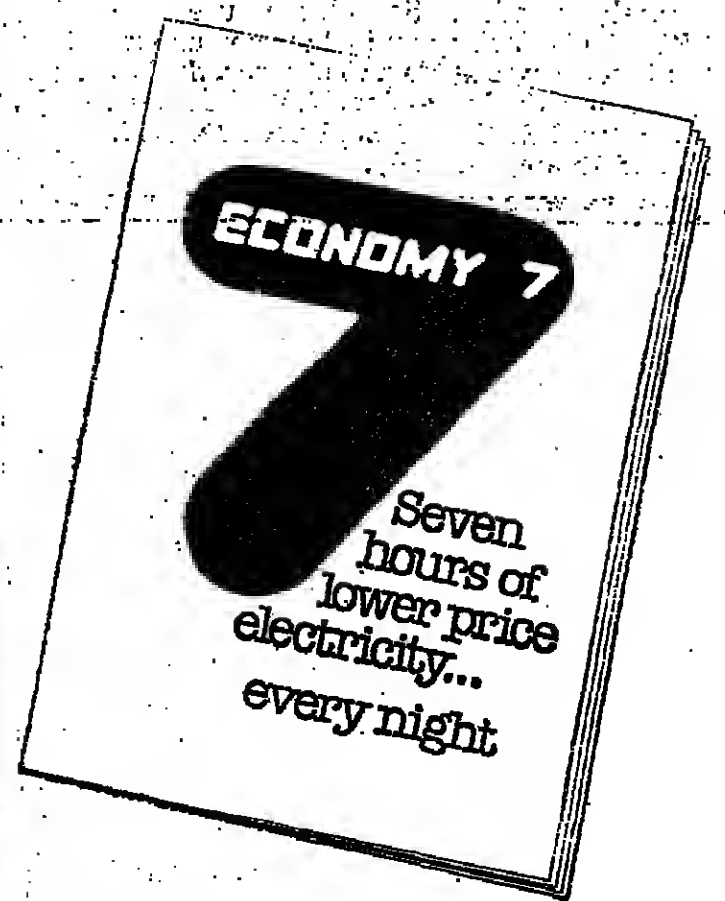
Economy Seven marks an important new step towards more stable prices for electricity.

It's the result of improved efficiency in the operation of Britain's big modern power stations, and of the steadily increasing development of nuclear power.



Full information is now available. Ask for details at your Electricity Board shop.

They'll explain how an Economy Seven plan could suit your special needs. A plan that offers you the cheapest off-peak electricity of all.



Get this leaflet from your Electricity Board Shop.

You're better off all round when you  
**CHOOSE ELECTRIC**

The Electricity Council, England and Wales.



## TUC CONFERENCE/BRIGHTON

## Unions vote for return to free pay bargaining

Outright opposition to any form of restrictive government, incomes policy was expressed in a motion carried overwhelmingly by the congress at Brighton yesterday.

The motion, tabled by the National Union of Mineworkers, instructed the general council to oppose any arbitrary pay limits and insisted on a return to "normal and responsible collective bargaining".

The vote, which was on a show of hands, came the day after the Prime Minister had appealed to delegates to accept the Government's 5 per cent guideline on wage settlements in the coming year and gave a warning that if they went over 5 per cent inflation would rise above its present level.

After a long debate, three other motions, one calling for the pursuance by the Government of the economic strategy adopted by the union movement, another calling for a reduction in the working week to 35 hours, and a third calling for the ending of the cash limit system were carried on a show of hands.

The congress rejected on a show of hands a motion from the National and Local Government Officers' Association calling for a new approach to pay within the framework of an economic contract with the Government.

Mr Alan Fisher, general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, moved a general motion on economic policy urging the pursuance by the Government of the economic strategy adopted by the union movement. That strategy included increased public ownership and public enterprise, public supervision of investment, the development of new systems of planning, with union representation covering the public and private sectors.

It called for increased house-building, redistribution of wealth, enforcement of price controls, constructive use of North Sea oil reserves to boost public sector investment and jobs, increased state investment in manufacturing industry and a rapid increase in the level of economic growth.

Mr Fisher said that by the time the congress ended they would have drawn up a formidable list of social priorities on which they would be expecting action from the Government. They recognized that there were many gaps in the fabric of the welfare state.

and were concerned about the development of a strategy that would enable them to achieve their social objectives.

Unless they could secure the commitment of the Government to such an economic strategy it was futile to imagine that there was any prospect of achieving even a tiny proportion of their social objectives in the predictable future.

"We must have effective control of all investment policies so that capital spending can be directed to where it is needed in the interests of the nation as a whole rather than in the interests of the profit of the few," he said.

Mr Fisher said his union would soon be embarking on the first big pay claim in the new round of wage negotiations. Its first priority was to attack low pay and for that reason would be seeking a basic minimum wage of £60 a week.

The ability to eliminate low pay was a condition of the adoption by government of a strategy that would make a high-wage economy an established feature of British life.

Mr Roy Grantham, secretary of the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff, said the congress should place on record its appreciation of the positive achievement of the Labour Government. It had achieved the most dramatic cut in the rate of inflation in the shortest time of any industrialized country and the next 12 months had seen the first substantial and sustainable growth in living standards since the oil crisis.

Mr Mostyn (Moss) Evans, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, moved a composite motion calling for the reduction of the working week to 35 hours, with one day of savings to be a top priority in negotiations with the Government. It called on the Government to negotiate the shorter working week in the public sector and urged a campaign in the union movement to ensure that excessive and expensive overtime were eliminated.

The motion called on the Government to make the reduction of unemployment its highest priority and to consider a reduction in the state retirement age, with improved pension provisions and longer holidays.

Reports by Philip Webster, Geoffrey Browning and Bernard Withers, of our Parliamentary Staff.

Mr Evans said they were far away from achieving permanent full employment as they were before the war: it was not just a question of more redundancies; there were fewer and fewer job opportunities in the economy.

What actions could they take as trade unionists? They wanted a shorter working week and he believed that was an important way of creating jobs.

The demand for a 35-hour week had been adopted because of the 10 per cent pay policy.

"We believe we must make it clear at this congress that we do not accept that any nationally determined pay limits can impede our moves to create jobs through the 35-hour week," he declared, to cheers.

"The Government must continually be made aware of our determination to bargain for a shorter working week without loss of pay and without being imposed by any 5 per cent pay policy."

They registered the negative attitude taken in the White Paper on winning the battle against inflation. "I hope that the Government will accept its responsibilities and as an employer in the public services, have in good faith on this issue."

He said that on the best estimates available to him a full achievement of the 35-hour week could create nearly 750,000 jobs, 200,000 in the public services.

He urged the Government to introduce a more aggressive industrial policy. It was time for a system of selective import controls. "The message from the congress must be that through exploiting to the full the possibilities of collective bargaining we can and will bring down unemployment."

Mr Lawrence Daly, general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, moved the composite motion, which stated that the congress recognized the sacrifices undertaken by union members in observing the terms of the agreed pay policies, but while recognizing the need to limit inflation, considered that after stages of restraint, unions must now negotiate freely in their members' interests.

Congress declares its opposition to government policies of intervention and regulation in wage bargaining, including government sanctions, and to any form of restrictive government, incomes policy.

Outrageous distortion of the general principle to oppose any arbitrary pay limit, and that there must now be a return to normal and responsible collective bargaining, based on a commitment of fair wages, cost of living, improvement of living standards, and the defence and improvement of living standards, and the defence and improvement of living standards, and the defence and improvement of living standards.

The motion recommended that bargaining policies for the next round should include the central reduction of the working week to 35 hours, and a reduction in overtime working, improvements in working conditions, the defence and improvement of living standards, and the defence and improvement of living standards.

Mr Daly said: Success as a result of the sacrifices of trade union members and their families should enable us to move into a more flexible negotiating position.

The motion urged a return to normal and responsible collective bargaining.

Mr Daly said he was in favour of free collective bargaining in the same sense that he was in favour of free collective bargaining, but if everyone supposed that free collective bargaining meant that each person chose which side of the road he should drive on and to ignore traffic lights if he wished, people would think that it was not free collective bargaining that was wanted but free collective bargaining.

He did not want free bargaining without regard to the interests of the rest of the community; the rest of the community did not want freedom of collective bargaining in the freedom of anyone to disagree with it. It had to be free and collective at the same time. In this new period it had to be more flexible so that they could negotiate with the employers for the improvements that were overdue.

If they were fortunate enough to move into an economic climate where there could be substantial

reductions in the length of the working week, the miners would be among the first, he hoped, to receive the benefits in a reduction of the working week.

Other problems, due to the period of the rigid income policy, should be tackled by eliminating all government intervention and interference when negotiating changes in national and local agreements.

The Government had not gone far enough on its side of the social contract. Unemployment spoke for itself. The Government should take a fresh look at the responsibilities it undertook in fulfilling its side of the terms of the social contract.

I hope that, despite the fact that the Prime Minister was welcome to the Prime Minister yesterday, we will pass this composite motion unanimously if possible, and I hope overwhelmingly, so that in the priorities voluntary collective bargaining can become the guiding light in our discussions with the employers and the Government.

Whatever interpretation was put on it, in certain quarters the vote for the composite motion and the report could become the basis for a further period of co-operation and trust with the Labour Government to create a fair and just society.

Mr Kenneth Gill, general secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (Technical, Administrative and Supervisory Section), seconded the motion, said he hoped it heralded the end of a period that had undermined the confidence of Britain into a low-wage country and had slashed differentials, turning friends into disillusioned enemies.

"I hope and trust the motion will be carried overwhelmingly and that the Labour Government and Jim Callaghan to the United States will be listening to us today. We should tell him clearly that when a Labour Government is in power, the trade union movement is almost certain that the government is wrong. History has always shown us that the government is wrong, and the government is wrong."

Mr Gill said that had union policy been pressed with more vigour last year they might now have had unity. The Government could have been committed to more progressive and scientific policies of the congress. Treasury, which supported measures to reduce the deficit, had been led to the Tories, who had always been wage-boosters, were attracted to collective bargaining.

It was significant that the Tories, who had always been wage-boosters, were attracted to collective bargaining. The Labour Government could have been committed to more progressive and scientific policies of the congress. Treasury, which supported measures to reduce the deficit, had been led to the Tories, who had always been wage-boosters, were attracted to collective bargaining.

Union members expected the leadership to defend their rights to bargain collectively without government intervention. They were disappointed that the Government had not done this. The IMF or any other organization, Union leaders had a traditional duty to speak on behalf of their members.

Mr Glyn Phillips, National and Local Government Officers' Association, moved a composite motion, which stated that the congress recognized the sacrifices undertaken by union members in observing the terms of the agreed pay policies, but while recognizing the need to limit inflation, considered that after stages of restraint, unions must now negotiate freely in their members' interests.

The motion recommended that bargaining policies for the next round should include the central reduction of the working week to 35 hours, and a reduction in overtime working, improvements in working conditions, the defence and improvement of living standards, and the defence and improvement of living standards.

Mr Phillips said his union opposed unilateral government policies, and to the 5 per cent proposal for the reason put forward by the Prime Minister on Tuesday, that it put everyone back.

Mr Phillips said that in rejecting a wage restraint that had to have the alternative of free collective bargaining. Many unionists looked on free collective bargaining with a religious fervour, but it had never been known to the public service.

We say in Nalco that we are fed up to the teeth with pushing buckets down to the empty well of free collective bargaining. (Applause.) We are not going to spend the next 12 years doing the same thing and pulling them up again. We are looking for a new way and propose a new approach. You will never reach the fears of trade unionists and the public from the association of doubt with free collective bargaining.

"We have to remove by the new approach a sense of injustice which many workers feel of the crude market or the equally crude policy of government unilateral decision. The most rational system is that trade unions accept that they have to give some authority to the general council to negotiate a flexible norm."

Mr Sidney Weighell, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaysmen, said the lesson to be learnt was that wages could not be looked at in isolation from the general economic state of the nation, nor could those responsible for conducting the economic affairs of the nation ignore pay.

His members wanted to be sure they were receiving their fair share of the improvement in the changing climate. If it made sense to reach an understanding when the nation was facing economic disaster, it made sense to plan how they would share the newly created wealth that would occur when Britain was self-sufficient in oil. Did they believe that the jackpot should be scooped by those with the main industrial muscle?

As a trade unionist and socialist, he was convinced that there was a better way. His union believed in collective bargaining, but it was the method that was at issue. His union wanted to see collective bargaining through the mobilization of the strength of 11,500,000 workers with the TUC backing with the government of the day on the terms in the motion moved by Mr Phillips. That should be prepared to sit down with government to discuss a general economic plan.

Mr Clive Jenkins, general secretary of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, moved a composite motion rejecting policies for controlling manpower and calling on the Government to discuss a general economic plan.

It proposed that the amount by which cash limits were underpinned should be available for use in the public services, and that the Government should prepare a White Paper as a basis for legislation on manpower planning and ultimately a career structure could be introduced that would encourage young people to join the industry on a permanent basis.

Mr Wood said the response of employers to the idea of a compulsory register was evident through the objections to the construction of the Construction Industry Manpower Board.

"While 200 building workers or thereabouts are annually killed at their places of work, building employers are content to squabble among themselves as to who should hold the reins of the CIMEB which in the ultimate could be the key to ensuring proper safety standards."

"We are not against a high unemployment rate, equivalent to three times the national average, a fatal accident risk five times greater than in manufacturing, and tax fiddlers encouraged by the use of lump labour."

As the election drew nearer, he said, building employers were distributing slogans saying "Keep Britain's industries free". He continued: "Free to do what? Free to maintain a high rate of profit without ploughing back into the industry sufficient investment for the future. Free to exploit the consumer maintaining house and building price levels at a figure beyond which could be called reasonable. Free to extract every ounce of strength from building workers by inducing them to participate in all manner of phony bonus schemes while at the same time agreeing to comparatively low national basic rates."

Mr Tom Jackson, general secretary of the Union of Post Office Workers, said any policy decided by politicians unilaterally and imposed upon the trade union movement was likely to be a policy that in the long run would fail. It was essential that the movement together with the Government should be able to produce circumstances in which they could have understandings and consensus, not simply to fight the election or to maintain the government office, but to let fairness, equality and justice for the workers be represented.

His union believed that a free-for-all would produce all inequalities that free collective bargaining gave in the past. Low pay was not caused by incomes policies, but had been with them for a long time.

The first phase of incomes policy, which gave a 15 increase, was the biggest increase that many workers had ever had before or since. He would prefer a policy whereby they could negotiate from a position of strength with the Government to produce a norm, a shorter working week to help the unemployed, and some social advantages for the young.

The NUM, TGWU, ASTMS and Nupe motions were carried on a show of hands. The Nalco motion was rejected on a show of hands.

Leading article, page 17



Mr Jenkins holding up a container of silicon chips to illustrate the technology that is cost jobs.

## Compulsory registration in construction urged

A motion urging the compulsory registration of employers and employees in the construction industry and calling on the Government to prepare a White Paper as a basis for legislation on manpower planning and ultimately a career structure could be introduced that would encourage young people to join the industry on a permanent basis.

Mr Wood said the response of employers to the idea of a compulsory register was evident through the objections to the construction of the Construction Industry Manpower Board.

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Leading article, page 17

A compulsory register with statutory backing was the first big requirement of decentralization. It would have the way to proper manpower planning and ultimately a career structure could be introduced that would encourage young people to join the industry on a permanent basis.

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Leading article, page 17

## Miss Lestor puts emphasis on full employment

The return to full employment must be planned on a programme and policy agreed by the TUC and the Labour Government, Miss Joan Lestor, chairman of a Labour Party, told delegates.

She said the Labour Party's aim was to create a new social order in which the needs of all people were met, and that this could only be achieved by full employment.

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## INDIAN FLOOD DISASTER

## The worst this century

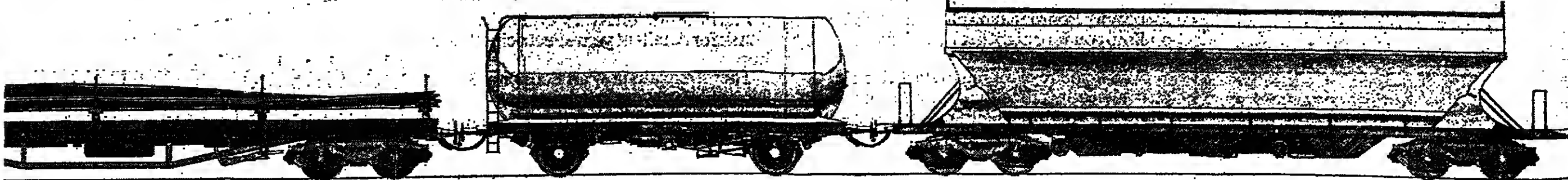
The suffering and devastation are already terrible: 1 million people are affected; 15,000 have been swept away, villages under six feet of water, with 500,000 houses destroyed or damaged. (Times report).

Victims of this tragic disaster are in desperate plight. Survivors rescued are weak from injuries, exposure and hunger. Old people suffer particularly because infirmity makes them least able to help themselves.

We have already sent immediate aid of £5,000. Blankets and clothing are also on the way. Much more is needed, quickly. The fastest way is to send money to experienced relief workers on the spot. They urgently need funds for food, medical aid and shelter.

Hours count—your donation is desperately needed. So please use the FREEPOST facility and address your gift to: Flood Appeal, Hon. Treasurer, the Rt. Hon. Lord Maybray-King, Help the Aged, Room T3, FREEPOST 30, LONDON W1E 7UZ (no stamp needed).

Speedlink





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## Mr Murray warns Government against getting involved in rigid attitude towards wages

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## HOME NEWS

### Change from electricity advocated

By Our Consumer Affairs Correspondent

People using full-rate electricity for heating are advised to change to systems using other fuels in this month's issue of Which?

A report on fuel economy says the cost of changing most heating systems to a different fuel would probably exceed any savings to be made in the next 10 years.

But changing from full-rate electricity might show a profit within five years.

Bottled gas is also expensive for room heating, and users are advised to change to any fuel except electricity, save in Northern Ireland, where mains gas users would profit from a change to bottled gas.

Calculating likely fuel bills this winter, Which? says that owners of typical three-bedroom semi-detached houses, paying middle-range prices for their fuel, will have to pay £220 if they heat their home with water by oil, £280 for white-meter electricity, and £170 for gas central heating.

The magazine compares buying and installation costs of various heating systems and running costs over five years. An electric fire that might cost £15, for example, would have a cost in use over five years of £665 at present prices.

A radiant convective gas fire, costing initially £65, would cost much less to run, amounting to £390 over five years.

For users of solid fuel, oil and paraffin, it can be worth shopping around. Which? found price variations of up to a fifth between coal merchants in the same town, making it possible to save as much as £50 a year.

The magazine advises people against removing chimneys or chimney-breasts, and says: "Solid fuel is relatively cheap now, and looks like outlasting oil and natural gas."

Pension losses. The Occupational Pensions Board must provide a fairer deal for people who lose out on their pensions after changing jobs. Money Which? for September says.

Anyone retiring on a salary of £7,500 might lose £2,000 a year for the rest of his life, because he changed jobs once 20 years ago.

Towns of 7,000 'too small for bus service'

Towns with populations of fewer than six or seven thousand are too small to support a local bus service, a report by the Road Research and Transport Laboratory states.

The authors have 20,000 people before a service can be viable, it adds. But in areas with between 5,000 and 20,000 people, a local service, while not profitable, can represent good value. A key factor is the geographical distribution of the population. Another is the availability of men and vehicles.

The laboratory researchers examined services in eight towns: Agington, Edinburg, Havfordwest, Leighton Buzzard, Northallerton, Pentrich, Pickering and Seaford, and found that local services are used mainly for shopping trips during off-peak hours.

The authors were particularly attracted to pensioners' use of the services.

The alternative for most users is walking.

Publications delayed

A dispute at a Stationery Office factory will delay the appearance of almost all new government publications, the Stationery Office said yesterday.

The dispute is over plans to close the bindery at Watlington, London.

Rail traffic delay

Rail traffic between London and Cambridge is expected to be disrupted today because three tankers carrying thousands of gallons of petrol were derailed at Royston station, Hertfordshire last night. No one was injured.

Unions' plan for Chrysler

The NUJ delegation decided last night not to withdraw their motion, and will call on stewards at the conference, who are supposed to be in support of the union.

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## Conservatives show Britain in decline

By Michael Hatfield Political Reporter

The Conservative Party attempted to boost its trade union vote in the general election on television last night. It did so by running the Union Jack down the flagpole as a symbol of Britain's industrial decline under Labour.

Although traditional Labour supporters resent the Tories' attempt to use the Union Jack, the Conservative Party political broadcast made effective use of it.

When the Union Jack was not depicted hanging limply alongside the flags of France, Germany and Holland, a British workman was shown sick in bed, his head resting on a pillow of red, white and blue.

The broadcast, timed to coincide with the TUC conference at Brighton, was addressed to all trade unionists. It attacked the decline in industrial productivity and criticised the suppression of wage increases, and left some politicians wondering whether the Tories would launch a big assault during the election campaign on the Government's aim to hold wages at 5 per cent.

Lord Thorneycroft, chairman of the party, said it was not a very good record for a government that was asking for the trade union vote because it got on well with trade unionists when "Labour's policy of wage controls and high taxation has actively discouraged businesses and individuals from increasing production."

Mr James Prior, party spokesman on employment, said: "For the past 15 years governments have tried to create realism and responsibility in pay bargaining by periods of rigid income control. These have been followed by periods of frequently irresponsible collective bargaining."

"This is what has embittered industrial relations and harmed all of us—producers, workers and consumers alike," he said. "We aim to break out of this damaging cycle and restore the system of responsible and realistic pay bargaining free from government interference because it has also been a traditional principle of the function of the trade union movement."

"That is why the average weekly wage of the British worker is so much less than that of French and German workers. In fact, it is so low, that if the average British worker lived in France or Germany he would not pay and income tax at all, because he would be regarded as a low-paid worker. No wonder we produce less, we are paid less. No wonder we are paid less, we produce less."

Mr Michael Heseltine, spokesman on the environment, said: "If you vote Labour because you think they are the party for the working man, that is just a slogan."

"The records show that it has always been the Conservatives who help the working man most. More and more trade unionists realise this. That is why so many have decided to opt out of the political levy to the Labour Party."

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## Clash over advert on crime figures

Mr Mervyn Rees, the home Secretary, intervened yesterday in the clash over a Conservative advertisement about crime with an accusation that the Conservatives had presided over greater increases in recorded crime than those shown in the advertisement.

The advertisement in yesterday's TV Times said that under Labour mugging had increased by 204 per cent, criminal damage by 135 per cent, and robbery by 88 per cent. "Labour's record on crime is criminal," it said. "Crime is one of the few things in Britain that is booming under Labour."

Mr Rees said: "The error of the Conservatives' advertisement is that its analysis has been done by advertising agents and not by people who really understand crime. It would be easy for me to demonstrate that greater increases in recorded crime took place when the Tories were in power and to say this was the fault of the Tory Government. I shall not descend to that level of analysis. It is, of course, a very easy game to play."

It was naive and facile to believe that governments caused or could have stopped a general rise in crime since the war. The figures the Tories used, Mr Rees added, depended on public attitudes to reporting crime and to police practice in recording it. Both could vary over a period.

"There is only one way of defeating crime: that is when all the people in the community are on the side of the forces of law and order. Any attempt to divide the community for political purposes can only be to its detriment."

Conservative Central Office described reports attacking the accuracy of the advertisement as absolute rubbish. It stood by the figures and intended to republish the advertisement.

The Home Office later said it would be unlikely to intervene, but privately it acknowledged the accuracy of the figures, except for those for mugging. That is not represented in any particular Home Office figure and it would not comment on it.

Officials gave a warning about the dangers of using selected statistics. Figures for criminal damage involving sums over £20 for example, were bound to rise considerably with inflation.

Mr Whitelaw, deputy leader of the Conservative Party, who was said to be annoyed by the advertisement, complained that he had not seen it, had made no comment and had none to make.

# Employers Tomorrow, you could be asked about the Job Release Scheme.



The Job Release Scheme has been extended until 31 March 1979 and now applies throughout Great Britain.

This Scheme offers men aged 64 and women aged 59 on or before 31 March 1979, the chance to stop work up to a year before reaching statutory pensionable age. They'll get £26.50 a week tax-free, and married people with a dependent wife or husband whose income is £8.50 or less a week will be eligible for £35.

The point is, they can't take advantage of the Scheme without your agreement. And if you do agree to allow them to participate, then you must recruit people from the unemployed register to replace them — though not necessarily for the same jobs.

As a result of this Scheme, your employees have the chance to stop work up to a year early, which may give you the chance to do a bit of promoting. Above all, you'll be able to take on new staff. Doing that means you're also giving a job to someone who's presently unemployed. Employees who wish to take part in the Job Release Scheme must apply by 31 March 1979. There'll be advertising in the national press to tell them about it.

Leaflets with full details of the Job Release Scheme are available from any Employment Office, Jobcentre or Unemployment Benefit Office, or ring Eileen Tingey on 01-214 6403 or 01-214 6684 for more information.

## Job Release Scheme

Department of Employment DE

# The fast growing name in freight

Railfreight Speedlink is growing fast and making a name for dependability. Over 9,000 miles of high-speed track are already integrated into the Speedlink system, with further services being introduced this year. Speedlink is the freight system of the future, today.

Purpose-built general merchandise vans, open wagons and flats transport Speedlink freight at speeds of up to 75 mph on mainline, high-speed track. An advisory service for companies considering purchasing specialist wagons is readily available. All transits are continuously

monitored by a computer-based control system to ensure reliability.

If you have sidings, modernisation to Speedlink standards will enable you to operate them more efficiently. New sidings developments, modernisation and specialist rolling stock may qualify for generous Government Grants.

Speedlink is growing fast and bringing freight reliability your way and to Europe. Find out more — write to the Chief Freight Manager, Railfreight, Room 4a, Melbury House, Melbury Terrace, London NW1 6JU.

**Railfreight Speedlink**  
THE FREIGHT NAME FOR RELIABILITY







## OVERSEAS

## Sadat aide promises dramatic new initiative at summit

Edward Mortimer

President Sadat has taken to David a new initiative less important than his visit to Jerusalem to break the psychological barrier, a senior Egyptian official said in London yesterday.

Tabssin Bashir, Egypt's representative at the Arab League, said that under the plan the parties could talk about the balance of the structure as a whole was preserved.

He believed it was the most comprehensive and detailed plan yet presented by either side to the conflict.

Asked about possible changes in Israel's borders, Mr. Bashir said that under the plan the parties could talk about the balance of the structure as a whole was preserved.

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Troops and Air Rhodesia officials examining the wreckage of the Viscount. The photograph was released yesterday.

## Girl of four praised for her bravery

Salisbury, Sept. 6—A survivor of the Air Rhodesia Viscount crash on Sunday told today how a four-year-old girl kept quiet during a night in the bush hiding from guerrillas and wild animals.

Dr. Cecil MacLaren, a dental surgeon, said, Tracey Cole, did not make a sound for hours as she hid with four other survivors from the aircraft, which crashed in a war zone near the Zambian border.

Thirty-eight people died in the crash and 10 survivors were shot dead by guerrillas.

He said they heard footsteps in the bush round them during their fearful night and he praised Tracey's silent bravery.

Tracey was marvellous. She didn't make the least noise," he told the Rhodesian Herald.

Dr. MacLaren was one of 56 people who boarded the four-engined Viscount at the Rhodesian lake-side resort of Kariba for a flight to Salisbury.

There was panic in the plane the moment we all knew that two engines were on fire. A lot of people jumped up. One fell out of the plane nose-diving.

We hit the ground with terrific impact. I landed upside down with my mouth full of earth. The broken plane acted like a scoop, scooping up dirt," he said.

After clambering from the wreckage, Dr. MacLaren, with Mrs. Shiraz Cole and her daughter Tracey, who had been sitting next to him, and four other survivors, Mr. and Mrs. Rob Haigheaves, trudged to a village near by to get water.

"When we got there, there was nobody. I spoke up in the vernacular. Eventually a door opened and a face appeared. Then another door opened. I asked a woman for some water. At first she refused. Then she gave us some."

"We splashed our eyes and faces and went back to the aircraft. A young hostess was lying on the ground, saying: 'Please give me some water. My upper arm was fractured'."

Dr. MacLaren said: "I went up to a kraal and asked for help. I would say 'If you can help, okay. If you can't, okay.'"

Finally, the group was found by a police Land-Rover. Three other passengers from the Viscount also survived. They were taken to the hospital when guerrillas opened fire on the 13 survivors who stayed beside the aircraft, killing 10 of them.

Geneva: The World Council of Churches, which last month approved a large grant to the Patriotic Front, has "deplored the reported shooting down by guerrillas of a Rhodesian civilian aircraft."

A spokesman said the council also strongly condemned the killings of thousands of defenceless African civilians in refugee camps inside Rhodesia and in neighbouring countries."

The International Committee of the Red Cross announced in Geneva that relief supplies and medical treatment for blacks in most Rhodesian rural districts had been abandoned, as a result of the murder of three staff members last May.

For safety reasons, the ICRC delegates have recently been travelling mostly by air, with the result that visits to certain regions which could only be reached by track had to be abandoned.

The Rhodesian Commissioner of the Patriotic Front and members of the internal agreement.

Commenting on the ideas advanced by Lord Carver (as Resident Commissioner-designate) for fashioning a Zimbabwe national army, Dr. Owen added that no settlement could be achieved without resolving the issue of who was to control the army.

No-one had produced a better plan, or indeed any plan which had a hope of being negotiable.

Responsibility for the command of all armed forces during the transitional period must therefore be transferred to the Rhodesian Commissioner, who would be responsible for the formation of the Zimbabwe national army and for the security of the country during the transitional period.

## Iraq 'jails three men expelled by Paris'

Paris, Sept. 6—Three Iraqis expelled from France after a bloody gun fight with police at their Paris Embassy are now in a Baghdad prison, the head of the Franco-Arab Solidarity Association said today.

Mr. Lucien Bairelein told French television that Iraqi authorities and the French Embassy in Baghdad told him of the arrests during a recent visit to Iraq.

The three men were expelled under cover of diplomatic immunity after police detained them outside the embassy on July 31 during shooting in which a French policeman and

an Iraqi Embassy security guard were killed. Police said the three were trying to kill a Palestinian gunman who had already surrendered to police after holding hostages in the embassy throughout the day.

Later the same week, gunmen claiming to be from the Palestinian "resistance front" killed the representative to France of the Palestine Liberation Organization and his deputy.

Mr. Bairelein said Iraqi authorities were sorry for the embassy shooting and had jailed those responsible. He said it was unlikely they would receive a public trial.

Trade discrimination: British firms in Iraq are facing commercial discrimination from the Iraqi authorities, the Foreign Office said yesterday (our Diplomatic Correspondent writes).

Although the Iraqi Government had not informed Britain of a change in policy, British firms were expected to log orders from Iraqi state organizations were not getting them.

This is evidently a consequence of Britain's recent expulsion of Iraqi diplomats from London on security grounds.

## S Africa envoy quits UN Namibia talks

New York, Sept. 6—Mr. R. J. Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, decided today to cut short his New York visit and return home.

In a 20-page letter to Dr. Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Botha demanded an unconditional written response from the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) on whether it accepted the Namibia independence settlement approved by the Security Council.

Mr. Botha said the SWAPO had refused to accept the settlement and that he was returning home to discuss the matter with the President.

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## Police raid squatters' camp outside Cape Town

Cape Town, Sept. 6—The police raided the huge Crossroads squatters' camp outside Cape Town during the night and rounded up hundreds of black men, women and children, an official of the South African Institute of Race Relations, said today.

He estimated that about 300 people had been arrested in the raid, which went on until dawn. A police spokesman said only that "quite a number" had been arrested and charged with being in the area illegally.

Cramped conditions in the last and biggest of Cape Town's black shanty towns and is due to be demolished. Bulldozers have already flattened the Modderdam, Umbell and Werkenbos camps.

The Minister of Administration, who governs black affairs in the area, has said that it will demolish the camp until after the winter which is now ending.—Reuter.

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## Dr Owen asks parties to show courage

By David Spanier  
Diplomatic Correspondent

If only the parties involved would courageously seize the opportunity, Rhodesia could still achieve a peaceful settlement, Dr. Owen, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday.

"Within days a Security Council resolution could be passed, an Order in Council could be laid before Parliament and sanctions could be lifted, a ceasefire declared and the irrevocable transitional process started towards an independent Zimbabwe," he told the Royal Commonwealth Society.

There was more common ground than appeared, Dr. Owen said. All parties believed that as part of the transition there should be a Council with executive powers, and most now conceded it should also have legislative powers.

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## Three die in Syrian clash with Lebanese rightists

Beirut, Sept. 6—Overnight clashes between Syrian peacekeeping forces and Lebanese right-wing militias have resulted in three deaths and 16 injured in two Christian districts of Beirut.

The three-hour heavy exchanges of rockets, mortars and artillery shells also caused several fires, and extensive damage in the districts of Ein un-Nah and Hadath.

One young man was killed and two policemen were wounded in higher exchanges yesterday in Hadath and the adjacent Christian district of abda, where the presidential palace is located.

Rightists said Syrians were using reinforcements that increased the total of their forces in Lebanon far beyond the mandatory 30,000-man Arab League peace-keeping army.

The rightist Voice of Lebanon radio said Algerian troops had entered Lebanon along with Syrians, and that Soviet experts were helping install anti-aircraft and ground-to-ground missile sites in eastern and northern Lebanon for the Syrians.

But leftist newspapers in Beirut said the rightist campaign was aimed at providing Israel with an excuse for military intervention against the Syrians in Lebanon.

Western correspondents who toured eastern provinces to verify rightist claims of Syrian "abnormal" reinforcements found no corroborative evidence.—AP.

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NEW BOOKS,

All in the family

New York Jew  
By Alfred Kazin  
(Secker & Warburg, £7.95)

Exactly 10 years ago there was another American Jewish critic, also from Brooklyn, who published an autobiography with a handsome title: *Making It*. By Norman Podhoretz. In retrospect one can see that Norman Podhoretz's book is oddly similar to Cyril Connolly's *Enemies of Promise*—except that being American, the controlling terms were naturally reversed: the subject is the aggro of literary success, rather than the charms of literary failure. *Making It* is also the best introduction I know to that world within a world, that clan within a clan, which Podhoretz called "the family": the New York Jewish intellectuals of the second generation, the generation of the Nazi persecutions in Europe, who between 1945 and roughly 1965 came to have such a wonderfully baroque and ineffectual effect on American literary life. Through certain magazines (especially *Partisan*, the *New Republic*, and *Commentary*), through their superb University teaching, through their presence in smart urban salons, through their impact on the Kennedy administration, and above all through their immense and pervasive moral authority. The literary monuments of "the family", and its immediate circle, are impressive. They include Lionel Lincoln's *The Liberal Imagination* (1950), Saul Bellow's *Herzog* (1964), Paul Goodman's *Growing Up Abroad* (1960), Hannah Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism* (1951), Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* (1949), as well as the stories of Philip Roth, the novels of Bernard Malamud and finally, through a species of agonized reaction, the poetry of Allen Ginsberg's *Howl* (1956). Altogether, for twenty

years at least, the family provided for America very much what Matthew Arnold called in his essay "The Literary Influence of Academies", that "lucidity of a large and centrally placed intelligence... the tone of the city, of the centre, the tone which always aims at a spiritual and intellectual effect, and not excluding the use of banter..." It provided a kind of metropolitan conscience.

I put forward at some length a frame of reference for Alfred Kazin's *New York Jew* for two—and two very opposed—reasons. First, because Kazin's fork, or even name, is not I think generally known in England. Even though he is now one of the elder statesmen of "the family" (regularly saluted in *Making It*—highbrows like Edmund Wilson, Alfred Kazin, and Dwight Macdonald whose style, if not their cultural loyalties, came out of the same traditions). He has taught and lectured all over America and Europe (including a Fulbright Lectureship at Cambridge); has written a standard account of the modern American literary tradition *On Native Grounds* (1956, revised edition); and has assembled several striking collections of review-criticism (notably *Contemporaries*, which contains a memorable foreword into the hotly disputed realm of "Psychoanalysis and the Literary Culture" defining a key moment (1958) the difference between the "rebel" and "stranger" figures in modern fiction). He has also published two enchanting original and occasional fragments of autobiography, largely about his Jewish childhood and adolescence in the Brownsville district of Brooklyn.

The second reason is that *New York Jew* is not at all what might have been expected in consequence of such a man

*New York Jew* is a book of surprising narrowness of spirit and meanness of personal judgments. It is full of showy, exaggerated writing; darkened with intellectual scorn; and constantly stooping to petty, pin-pricking revenge. Despite its title, it does not have the tone of "the city, the centre", in the least.

Significantly, only when Kazin remembers his travels abroad, does the atmosphere lighten, the air quicken. The accounts of wartime London, postwar Cologne and Salzburg, Rome, Jerusalem and Moscow, are fresh and unusual, and the "boy from Brownsville" seems to return with a fine, keen stronger sense of historical forces glimpsed beneath the glitter of VIP receptions, and the laurel bows of international academia. He is also genuinely funny about the Army's efforts in this field of education; and deeply moving about the Holocaust.

But when Kazin concentrates on his individual contemporaries, he cannot avoid the verbal or deflating trade: the mockery that is so far from that Arnoldian banter. A few mournful examples will have to serve. Robert Frost, is ridiculed as a "poet and desecrator of the American field-marshal", both physically and mentally "swollen man" with his need for fame and flattery. Edmund Wilson (that great Johnsonian figure) is an indulgent caricature of the Fifties, a "well-behaved beach, la plage des intellectuels", "massive, unyielding on the smallest matters", "tyrannically correct with himself and officiously correct about everybody else", and always brandishing a "reptile" small. So it goes, with small respites for love-affairs and topography, over nearly 300 pages.

Writing of the newspaper man T. S. Matthews, some 20 years ago, Alfred Kazin said: "Autobiography used to be a success story... now it seems to be written by people of any age and material condition, who know that they haven't altogether made it..." These words do seem to return upon the waters in the case of *New York Jew*. Kazin's account of his own life is a curious mixture of the assessment of his contemporaries is not in the end altered, or even much sharpened; it is Kazin himself who seems narrowed and defined, sometimes almost comically. One image, a domestic glimpse, particularly struck me. In describing his endless, rather stimulating, quarrels with his third wife Beth (the novelist Ann Beeson), Kazin remarks ruefully that "when the 'happy' swished and threw dishes out the kitchen window", he used to discover these plates several days after, "all unbroken when the snows cleared". Such would seem to be the permanent face of this autobiography. Alfred Kazin, a writer of 20 years of precious literary crockery around him with great relish and intensity, but one of it actually breaks.

Richard Holmes



Cheap potency

Women and Children First  
The Fiction of Two World Wars  
By Mary Cadogan and Patricia Craig  
(Gollancz, £7.50)

Cheap literature is as potent as cheap music. It has a charm that never quite fades. As a child I read Biggles, Blyton and Beano by the yard. I am under the impression that I have forgotten it all—except the story where Biggles fights for the Firms against the Kaiser himself on the roof of an express train. But how strong was this pressure among all the others?

At other times, fortunately, they mainly describe. They are well-written, but they are moralising conclusions. They are best when they see the charm of *Vogue*, among the hysteria of 1914-18, running a feature entitled "Nighties to Wear when Zeppelins are Coming". Flattery is one form of toughness.

In the Second World War, *Beano* was on the same therapeutic wavelength with "Mussolini the Wop, He's a Big-ada" or "Richard Cromwell in mockery of towie ewaness". "What's the grass?"

Paul Barker

These were the itchy questions I brought away from reading *Women and Children First*. Mary Cadogan and Patricia Craig made their name with their book of girls' stories, *Before Brick Lane*. Their new book is subtitled "The Fiction of two world wars". It is a jumble of quotations, plot summaries and capsule criticism—a bit about Hemingway, a bit about Joyce Cary, a bit about Evelyn Waugh. But it is best when it is about junk. The more it is like a White Elephant stall the better.

There is Northcliffe's *Girl Own Paper*, mixing xenophobia with sentimentality. Or there is *Mandarin Mary*, heroine of a novel of 1918, who is "driven to the expedient of unmaking no less than four enemy agents (the hotel matron, factory canteen manager, a bench hand and one of Sir William's maids). Alfred Kazin, a writer of 20 years of precious literary crockery around him with great relish and intensity, but one of it actually breaks.

The authors have tried to concentrate on writing for or about women and children. But they have often been tempted

Bravery and anguish

The Lasting Honour  
The Fall of Hong Kong  
By Oliver Lindsay  
(Hamish Hamilton, £5.95)

Hong Kong remains to this day a spectacle of bizarre in the extreme—a city and one of the world's greatest commercial and financial centres, but perched as a tiny, brightly neon-lighted specimen of rearing capitalism on the rim of a vast communist mainland. Yet even more bizarre and fantastic was the contrast in its life before and after the night of December 18, 1941, when the easy unheeding, and at times even leathery indifference of the pre-war colonialists was suddenly swept down and away by the Japanese attack.

There followed eighteen days of truly desperate fighting, while a small garrison including British, Indian and Canadian troops, and Hong Kong volunteers, were first forced back from the mainland territory of the colony and then from one pillbox or defence position after another among the steep hills and defiles of Hong Kong island.

Readers of Major Lindsay's account of this largely infantry battle will be grateful to the author for much careful research and for his clear presentation of the many personal accounts of soldiers and civilians. Lindsay has two particular advantages—a close personal knowledge of the terrain, acquired when he was himself later stationed in Hong Kong with the 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards, and the professional knowledge of a staff officer which enabled him to make a convincing analysis of the strategy and tactics of the battle and of the qualities of the troops involved, including the Japanese.

His conclusions do not differ importantly from the brief official history, *The War Against Japan*, but this most readable book supplements the official record admirably. It gives a vivid impression of the bravery and anguish of the confused fighting in close country and of the insanity of the Japanese in the overcrowded population centres of Kowloon and Victoria once the bombing and sabotage began. The endurance and occasional breakdowns of men and women in the heat of conflict and the anxieties of the senior officers are treated with a sympathetic, though never over emotional regard.

A. M. Rendel

Fiction

Picture Palace  
By Paul Theroux  
(Hamish Hamilton, £4.95)

Graham Greene has often been a ghastly presence behind Paul Theroux's work. I am not thinking only of that writerly talent for sleazy London detail. Theroux has made his own, or even his eyes for the perverse sexuality of drug and victim which powered *The Family Arsenal*. At least once before Theroux has hinted at the figure of a living Greene off-stage, as an acquaintance claimed by two characters inside the narrative of *The Great Railway Bazaar*. Now in his latest novel, with splendid self-assurance, Theroux has Greene enter the fiction itself, and allows him to share his reflections upon the nature of art and reality with the central figure of the novel, seventy-year-old Maude Pratt. Perhaps this (entirely plausible and relevant) conversation is an act of exorcism. At any rate, it is Maude's strident, bossy "Massachusetts voice" that dominates the story. Paradoxically, *Picture Palace* is Theroux's least fussy, least self-conscious novel to date, with writing as open and clean as the white-painted houses and white-fence-lined roads that filled Maude's Cape Cod childhood.

Maude Pratt, we quickly understand, has been recognized as a successful photographer for the best part of half a century. The "Picture Palace" is her store of pictures, which are being put together and dutifully labelled for a retrospective exhibition by Frank, financed by the Guggenheim foundation. We are rapidly led to believe in the separate existence of the photographs, and to accept that their originality comes from Maude's instinctive recognition of

human faces off-guard. It is easy, too, to believe that Maude's own lop-sided face has brought her to an understanding of the ugly and remote, and to see how her own sense of being crippled has made her into "an outsider, who sees": an honest eye which leaves no record of herself in her portraits of others. I seem almost fitting that a retrospective exhibition of her work (the Guggenheim Scholar) who is treated as star, while Maude is ignored as if she were invisible. This is not something Maude herself made, since the hard-won fortitude of the idea of the exhibition, and is more concerned to recapture her own life memories.

The pursuit of those memories gives the whole structure to the novel. The novel consists partly of evocations of the incidents that have led to some of the most memorable sequences of photographs, and partly of Maude's own reminiscences for her brother. It is to be said that not all the celebrities who come into view have as much solidity as Greene (Layla, for instance, is shown with Frank on his knees, his head bashed, expounding his vision of "hollyhocks and sex" to Maude, then why a bewildered child). Theroux's efforts more belief in his unforgotten citizens' craft in the tall-tale enjoyment of the *Carver Pig Dinner*, another of Maude's showpieces, which is, of course, altogether attention. And there is considerable detective interest in the carefully spaced clues to the true nature of Maude's relations with her brother Orlando and her sister Phoebe. By a new Borgesian sleight of hand, her photographs record what her memory forgets. Nevertheless, the story has an impetus of its own. And Maude's voice, broad, coarse, and yet surprisingly innocent, remains in the ear, long after the book has been put down.

Elaine Feinstein

The Far Pavilions  
By M. M. Kaye  
(Allen Lane, £5.95)

It has happened. It was bound to. Tara has come to Peshawar, and we have a *Gone with the Wind* of the North-West Frontier. Imagine a collaboration between Maude Diver, G. A. Henty, Barbara Cartland and A. E. W. Mason, supervised by Sir Henry Newbolt, and encouraged from a distance by King and Queen. The result will have some notion of the rip-roaring, heart-tugging, flag-flying, hair-raising, boot-heating quality of M. M. Kaye's *The Far Pavilions*, which is nearly 1,000 pages long and contains all possible permutations of oriental and imperial romance.

The Pavilions of the title are a group of celestial Himalayan peaks which provide an allegorical focus for the tale, but the body of the work is anything but serene. Ashton Hilary Akbar, Pelham-Martyn, orphaned son of the famous scholar Professor Hilary Pelham-Martyn, is brought up as an Indian servant-boy, but becomes a soldier in the Guides (Corps of) of the British Empire. He falls in love with a half-Rajput, half-Cossack princess, and spends the 20-odd years of the narrative in almost unrelieved physical danger or emotional turmoil, ending up disguised as an Afghan scribe in the tragic defence of the Kabul Residency in '78.

Well, not quite ending up. It is not this kind of story. Actually we last see him riding away through the moonlight with his beloved, on his way to establish a self-sufficiency project in the far Himalayas (sustained though, as the princess, prudently reminds him, by her dowry jewels—these we can always sell little by little, as it were, at a time). The flames of the burning Residency blaze behind them, the first smell of the morning is on the air, as they spur their way across the flatlands towards the mountains...

It is easy to make fun. Miss Kaye has packed five or six romantic novels into one, all unfortunately with the same predictable characters in similar

farly foreseeable situations. No reader in his, or at least his, senses would suppose that Belinda Harlowe, with her eyes of cornflower blue and nose that wrinkled deliciously when she laughed, would ever make a fit bride for our hero. For a second did I expect that Juli would really have her eyes burnt out after the death by sword of his wicked father Shu-Shu. I never distrust the photographs record what her memory forgets. Nevertheless, the story has an impetus of its own. And Maude's voice, broad, coarse, and yet surprisingly innocent, remains in the ear, long after the book has been put down.

But if I laugh, I laugh affectionately—and admiringly. There is more to *Pavilions* than this. Preposterous though its parts are, its whole possesses immense evocative power. Its scenes of true love are enough to make Mrs Whitehouse yawn, but its scenes of battle are terrifically convincing—Miss Kaye is the wife, daughter, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter of soldiers, and writes about sieges and ambushes, bombardments and retreats, as exuberantly and as knowledgeably as Lady Butler used to paint them.

More importantly still, she can summon into her narrative the very presence of India. She has spot much of her life there, and the backgrounds of the story, its settings and allusions, are fascinatingly vivid and precise. I sometimes feared, I confess, that the thing was never going to end, but even so, it is a cry from the heart, a cry of homesickness I think for an India that is lost, and a life that is over. And if I was moved despite myself, despite the absurdities and the longeurs, it is because the book touched a nerve in me as well: a nerve of yearning and regret, it is thought those Far Pavilions were images, too, of the challenges and the chances, the fulfilments and the promise, the fulfilments of duty, service and imagination that were once the gift of Empire to our eager nation.

Jan Morris

M. M. Kaye's debt to Paul Scott—*Literary Diary*, page 16.

 Oxford University Press

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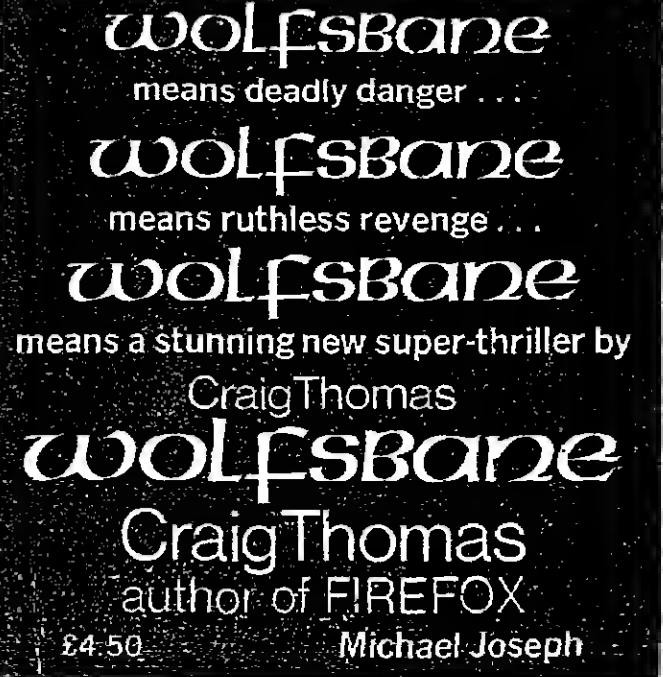
ANGLO-ARAB RELATIONS AND THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE 1914-1921, by A. L. Tibawi, published October, 1977. This most authoritative and comprehensive history is based on the archives of the British Cabinet and Foreign Office and Arabic sources. Now being reprinted. Cloth 523 pages. Price £15.00. "Hard task very ably accomplished... There is no doubt that this book will prove definitive on its subject." *The Middle East Journal* (Washington).

ISLAMIC EDUCATION: ITS TRADITIONS AND MODERNIZATION INTO THE ARAB NATIONAL SYSTEMS, by A. L. Tibawi, published November, 1972. Acclaimed by specialists, this justly famed work is being reprinted. Cloth 256 pages. Coloured Frontispiece. Price £25.25. "A reflective study of the evolution of Islamic education, condensed and scholarly... Nothing of the kind has existed in English up to now." *The Times Higher Education Supplement*.

Also by A. L. Tibawi and still available:

ARABIC AND ISLAMIC THEMES: HISTORICAL EDUCATIONAL AND LITERARY STUDIES, published September, 1976. Cloth 469 pages. Coloured Frontispiece. Price £21.65. "An outstanding contribution... a model of lucidity and detachment... a masterly analysis that sparkles with insight... each chapter is a masterpiece." *Revue de l'Académie arabe* (Damascus).

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Dumb friends

On the Fifth Day  
Animal Rights and Human Ethics  
Edited by Richard Knowles  
Morris and Michael W. Fox  
(Centaur Press, £5.50)

The cumulative effect of this impressive collection of essays takes us some distance from animal rights and even from human rights. It proposes an urgent need for a radical change in current human values, away from the prevailing ethic of exploit and destroy towards an awareness of mankind holding a humane stewardship over the world, its mineral ecology as well as its animal and vegetable life.

There are a dozen contributors, all leading scholars in their own fields which include science, theology and philosophy. Each has taken a serious interest in animal rights as related to his or her own discipline and the book was sponsored by The Humane Society of the United States.

Arguments are conducted then on a profound philosophical level, sometimes very profound. Not all American academics it seems are masters of lucid English prose. This I fear could turn off a number

of potential readers who would find the book powerful and moving. It does mean, though, that we are spared the suspect arguments of sentiment and anthropomorphism. When gut reaction is needed it is there—in Roger Caras's resounding attack on cruelty to animals and Amy Freeman Lee's cool discussion of violence in society.

There are no recitals of the horrors of the slaughter house, the experimental laboratory or the seal hunt. This approach, as the editors seem to realize, could promote the kind of superficial emotional response which is so swiftly defeated by self-interest—even Caras, who is a former Vice-President and Director of The Humane Society, springs some suspect reasoning when justifying him. However, allowed to forget these immediate examples of man's inhumanity to animals, and the British reader may be surprised to learn that in the States hunting is a billion dollar industry and powerful lobby and that celebration of all-American manhood the rodeo is contrived upon appalling cruelty to the horses.

We use animals as machines

for work, as puppets for entertainment, as raw material for food and as pets which displace them from their natural arguments of sentiment and anthropomorphism. When gut reaction is needed it is there—in Roger Caras's resounding attack on cruelty to animals and Amy Freeman Lee's cool discussion of violence in society.

Both philosophers and theologians are concerned by how man acquires the concepts that allow his behaviour to other forms of life. Genesis seems, appropriately, to be the beginning. On the other hand, the obscure the central issue—killing for fun. The artistry and grace of the one, and the traditional pageantry of the other can be—indeed are—expressed in berms and equally effective terms.

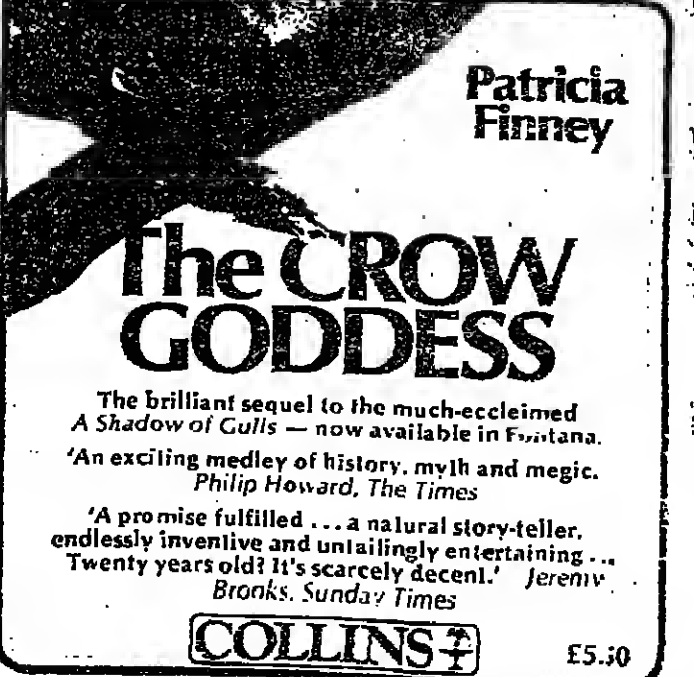
costs £11, and the books are unmissably handsome. Apart from collecting all the Spectrist poems the volume *Light Verse and Satires* also contains a remarkable play called "Coke" which has something of the flat comic flavour of John Ashbery, and a series of quite witty (or bawdy?) verbal definitions of his contemporaries by the immortal Emmanuel Morgan: Robert Graves ("the khaki kid"), T. S. Eliot ("the wedding cake of two tired cultures"). Emmanuel Morgan Eves, the Spectrist school has never really died out. Its adherents in 1978, however, tend to go in for more primitive effects: The scream. The faintest hiss. This is from the first poem in *Cave Birds: An Alchemical Cave Drama* by Ted Hughes (Faber, £5.95), a sequence of verbal ejaculates which carries on where *Crow* and *Gaudete* left off, celebrating the predatory mindlessness of animals, seeking to relate this in some way to man—a job rather better done, technically, in the drawings by Leonard Baskin which accompany the text—with now and again a digression about ferns. Mr. Hughes's latest work has its admirers, but for the life of me I cannot see what it is that they admire, unless it is being able to feel at home with a

Poetry

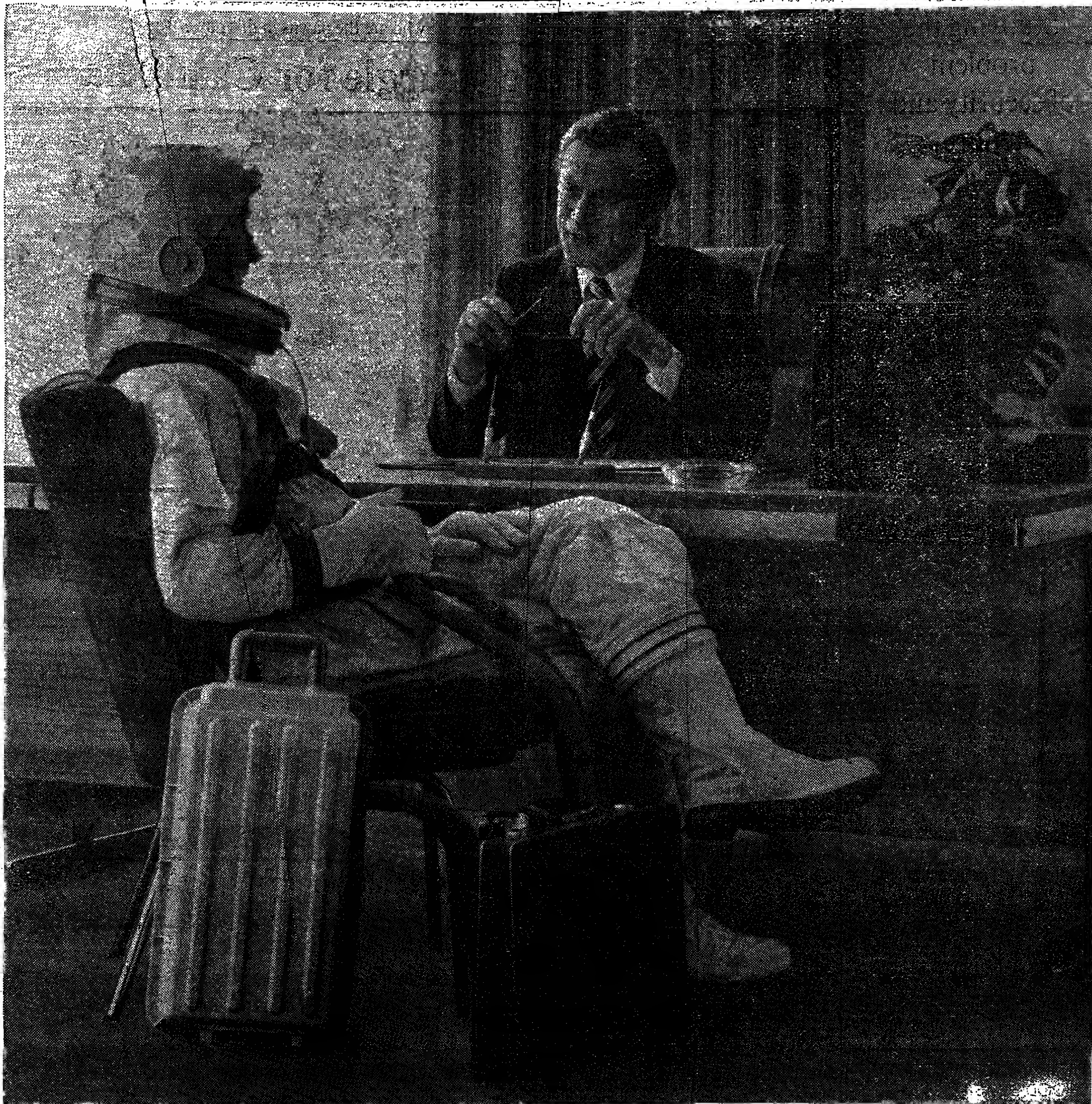
One of the more enduring and amusing literary hoaxes of the twentieth century was perpetrated in 1916 when a volume called *Spectro* was published, containing verses signed by two names—Emmanuel Morgan and Ms Knish. Mr Morgan and Ms Knish had it in common that their work was cryptic, beautiful, and very modern. 1916 Modern, that is. Typical lines went like this: *Tax-assessors frequently overtook me. Today they noted my hair. But my memory of you escaped them.*

The delicately ironic Orientalism of this was much admired by early readers. The two Spectrist poets were freely compared with the better-known Imagists. John Gould Fletcher spoke of the Spectrist "vividly memorable lines". William Carlos Williams declared himself a great admirer of Emmanuel Morgan especially. Harriet Monroe accepted some of the stuff for publication in her influential magazine *Poetry*. Then came the bombshell. It was admitted that Emmanuel Morgan and Anne Knish did

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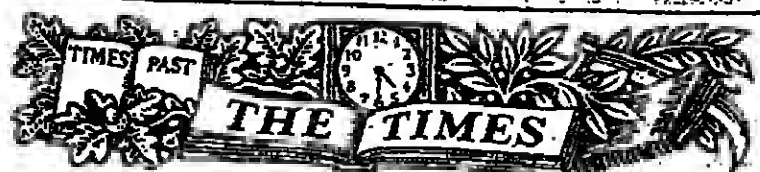
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## THE INTEGRITY OF GOVERNMENT

Lord Thomson of Monifieth's statement on the Rhodesian sanctions controversy is clear and convincing on one essential point. As Commonwealth Secretary in 1968, he says, "I conveyed in writing to the Prime Minister and other ministers most directly concerned a full account of all that passed at my meetings on behalf of the Government with the oil companies. The obvious ineffectiveness of the Rhodesian oil sanctions and the implications this constituted for the British oil companies were in fact discussed frequently by the ministers concerned."

This disposes of Sir Harold Wilson's reported belief that he was hoodwinked by oilmen and officials into believing that Rhodesia's oil supply was mostly the work of the French and South Africans. There is no reason to doubt Lord Thomson's statement that everyone's eyes were open. The essential facts were known to officials, ministers and the Prime Minister himself. The Commonwealth Secretary was not acting on his own and his role in the affair cannot be singled out for isolated attack. Responsibility properly belongs with the Government of the day and with its successors, who should have been more than enthusiastic for making sanctions effective.

It was not Sir Harold who was hoodwinked but the British public and anyone else who gave credence to British statements. The picture that now emerges of a Government which decided on sanctions without a full analysis of how they could be imposed and in spite of warnings from the oil companies that they could not be made truly effective. When the failure of the policy gradually forced itself on the Government's attention the decision was taken to muddle through and shut one eye to the law. Admittedly the Government's dilemma was difficult. To drop the sanctions altogether would have been too damaging an admission of defeat and would

have brought down the wrath of black Africa on Britain's head. On the other hand, as Lord Thomson points out, to make the sanctions truly effective it would have been necessary to risk a serious confrontation with South Africa. A blockade of South Africa was ruled out, so Britain might have found herself suffering severe commercial losses while rivals moved in to circumvent the sanctions even more effectively.

However, while this is a partial explanation of what happened it is very far from being a satisfactory excuse. The fact remains, on present evidence, that the Government of the day were consciously conniving in the circumvention of their own declared policy and laws passed to enforce this policy. In 1968 they were informed that the law had been broken, yet they failed to initiate prosecutions and then gave the oil companies the impression that they had no objection to arrangements with the French company Total. These arrangements, which involved selling oil to Total to make up for French supplies to Rhodesia, were nothing less than a transparent circumvention of the letter of the law so that oil could continue to reach Rhodesia. Lord Thomson does not wholly deny this. He merely says that accusations "miss the reality of the situation."

It was outside British legal jurisdiction, we had no power to stop it. So far, however, there is no evidence that any serious expressions of disapproval were made to the oil companies. Lord Thomson says that diplomatic pressure was applied to the French but nobody can seriously have expected that this would have much effect.

The British Government were therefore permitting nonsense to be made of their own policy. Yet the Beira patrol continued and the Government continued to pretend in public that it was doing all it reasonably could to bring down Mr Smith. This

inconsistency pervades much of Lord Thomson's statement. He seems unable to decide whether he is arguing that the Government did not have the power to make sanctions effective or whether he is arguing that they did not wish to pay the price of doing so. He argues that "we were waging economic war against an illegal regime" but he admits in effect that the weapons were seen to be ineffective at an early stage, and that this was accepted to the extent of partially abandoning an important part of the campaign while still pretending to continue it.

It is a shabby story that is emerging. For a Government to behave as if it were above the law is a serious matter—and for Lord Thomson to argue that prosecutions, by revealing that British companies had been supplying oil to Rhodesia, would have "given a great boost to the morale of the Rhodesians" is nonsense. What boosted Rhodesian morale was the knowledge that Britain was failing to enforce sanctions. Prosecutions, or even nothing more than some public statements on what had been happening and what was being done to stop it, would have lowered rather than boosted Rhodesian morale. They would have shown that Britain was taking its policies and its laws seriously.

There is still time for the Government to win some credit by proper handling of the revelations now emerging. As we have already said, the Bingham report should be published in full as soon as possible. But this is not enough. Among other things it will also be necessary to know why Sir Harold Wilson and a number of other key figures were not called to give evidence to the Bingham inquiry. There is also a strong case for releasing the relevant Government papers. The issues now extend far beyond the Rhodesian sanctions themselves. They involve the integrity of government.

## SAYING NO TO 5 PER CENT

Silicon chips have been the King Charles's head of the Trade Union Congress this year. They have thrust their way into speeches at every stage, whether from Moss Evans, Hugh Scanlon, Len Murray or the Prime Minister himself. Yesterday Clive Jenkins brandished an array of them, warningly, at the delegates. Chips have filled the Congress with admiration and dread, often in conjunction with a reassuring reference to North Sea oil, but always in conjunction with the question "Are we going to behave like Luddites over this?"—a question expecting the answer "not exactly". Partly because of the NEB's latest ventures into the field, micro-electronics have come to stand for all the threats and opportunities that new technologies represent for employment and prosperity between now and the end of the century. Silicon chips may make thousands of existing jobs superfluous. The prospect appears deeply threatening to the Labour movement, though historic experience is that new technologies, by creating new wealth, also create new jobs.

This brooding over chips may partly explain the muted air of the debate upon incomes policy, which may have seemed in political terms a more urgently contentious matter. It was, of course, paradoxical that the delegates should rapturously acclaim Mr Callaghan and offer him their support in the election while withholding the only solid

testimonial of support that he asked for. Paradox was ingrained in the principal motion of pay policy, with its support for higher minimum rates as well as for wide differentials, for shorter hours without loss of earnings, as well as containment of unit labour costs.

This is probably the last year in which the unions will be tied to a minority Labour government, though yet another minority Labour government is by no means the least likely outcome of the election. This year, as last, there is no formal bargain over a figure, and there is increasing insistence by individual unions that they must secure their own chances untrammelled by explicit or implicit conditions. But the proposition that there is no material link between wages, prices and employment is now seldom put forward and almost everywhere rejected.

To some extent, no doubt, this is a matter of electoral tact. But it is also a measure of the real and enduring shock that the experience of the 1974-75 inflation gave. The fears aroused then about unemployment are not felt simply as concern about government policy this year or next. The problem is recognized as one that will have to be met by sustained efforts over whole decades. Traditional trade union methods are manifestly of limited utility in grappling with the problems of ensuring that the silicon chip brings securely based wealth, widely shared, rather than unemployment and

more missed chances for British technology.

It will not help Mr Callaghan not to have received TUC backing for his pay proposals. Incomes policies seem generally popular at election times, and he can hardly campaign on an agreement that has been rejected. But the blow is one that had generally been discounted long ago, and it broadly implies nothing worse than a continuation of the formal state of affairs of the past year. No doubt the sober mood at Brighton is not fully reflected among those who will be making claims at local level (though there is evidence that the views of ordinary union members are often closer to this point than those of their national or regional leaders).

Some groups in strong bargaining positions will certainly take advantage of their strength. Three years of incomes restraint have left many genuine anomalies to sort out. But wage controls have been becoming steadily less effective, as people move jobs and earnings rise. Wage controls can only influence inflation in the short term and grow increasingly obstructive to industrial innovation and open to abuse the longer they last. It is fundamental economic forces rather than imposed pay norms that affect the long-term trends. Failure to get the 5 per cent cap is a propaganda loss to the Government for they rely too much on incomes policy. It will not make all that much difference to the actual rate of inflation.

## Scientific research

From Miss Anne Simmons, and others  
Sir, The Times (September 5) reported the inaugural address of the 1964 Nobel Prize Winner, Professor Dorothy Hodgkin, OM, FRS, to the annual meeting for the British Association for the Advancement of Science. Professor Hodgkin urged a switch of funding from defence research, where Britain spends more, to civil research where Britain spends much less than countries like West Germany and Japan. She particularly stressed that more young people and more women needed to be drawn into science.

We write as senior scientists representative of many others throughout the country who are deeply concerned about the prospects in scientific research owing to the total absence of any career structure, tenure or job security for almost anyone employed in full time research in the universities or medical schools in the United Kingdom. Far from urging the young into science, we would advise them to look closely at the present prospects. Not only is there no secure future for the full time researcher, but there are some institutions where the situation is even worse because they have introduced fixed term contracts for all, irrespective of seniority, which contain waiver clauses agreeing to forego all rights to redundancy payments and claims for unfair dismissal. This means that, in these institutions, the research scientist who reaches an appropriate level of seniority then faces the prospect of unemployment without any compensation whatsoever.

Full time researchers in universities and medical schools are almost always funded by short term

grants, usually for about three years at a time. These grants are often renewed, but at present are rarely available beyond a specific period, usually in the thirties. Moreover, these scientists will find that they tend to be unemployed elsewhere, as was discovered by many who responded to a recent person to person advertisement in Nature about this problem. They are too old or too specialized.

A recent article by the General Secretary of the Association of University Teachers suggested that there are a minimum of 10,000 non-tenured research workers in the United Kingdom. Furthermore, he pointed out that the number of academics in this category registered as unemployed has risen within the last 12 months from 800 to 1,800. These are horrifying statistics.

Yours sincerely,  
ANNE SIMMONS,  
Guy's Hospital Medical School,  
JUNE SUTOR,  
University College, London.  
ALAN MAYNE,  
University College, London,  
20 Gordon Street, WC1,  
September 5.

## Prisoners in Ethiopia

From Mr Hugh Fraser, MP for Stafford and Stone (Conservative), and Sir Bernard Braine, MP for Essex, South East (Conservative).  
Sir, September 11 marks not only the Ethiopian new year but the 4th anniversary of the overthrow of the Emperor and the establishment of the military regime.

Since then hundreds of people, many of them women and children, have been held in prison without

trial. No charges have been brought against them. They have broken no laws. No indication is given as to their actual or eventual fate. Neither letters nor requests are answered.

These unfortunate make no claim to be prisoners of conscience; they are hostages, the "misérables" of political innocence. Some are old, some infirm, all suffer. To your readers we make the plea that these victims of violence should not be forgotten; to the present rulers of Ethiopia the appeal that, whatever their policies, their regime would gain immeasurably in world esteem if on this fourth anniversary of their victory they would let these people go.

Yours faithfully,  
HUGH FRASER,  
BERNARD BRAINE,  
House of Commons.

## Blacklisting the NUM?

From Dr M. R. Holliday  
Sir, I note with interest that the leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers have voted themselves pay increases well in excess of the present wage guidelines and in breach of the 12-month rule.

If these increases are paid will it be admissible to place the NUM on the present "blacklist" or will the Government have to set up a new roll to accommodate offenders from within the ranks of the trades unions? (A "white list"?)

Yours faithfully,  
M. R. HOLLOWAY,  
214 Embury Lane,  
East Molesey,  
August 31.

## Policy on village schools

From Lady Plowden  
Sir, I welcome Professor Lee's letter (September 5), in which he looks at the needs of young children and the harm which may be done to them by "hosting" them away from their villages to school. The "Flowden Report" was quoted by Mr Sexton (August 31). In this we wrote:

"During the period 1962 to 1965 the number of primary schools with up to 25 pupils declined by 243 and the number of schools with 26 to 30 pupils was reduced by 233. Closure of one-teacher schools was proportionately greatest: these schools... are particularly difficult to run... Many of the smallest schools are in the worst buildings... Frequently no applications may be received for headships of isolated one-teacher schools... The evidence we have received, both from teachers in small schools and most of the educational associations is that a three class school for the village is not a viable unit... This led us to recommend that this should be the norm. But we added 'But local circumstances will make exceptions difficult'."

We had our reservations nevertheless. We too were concerned at the effect on small children of five or six being taken to schools outside their village whose mothers were unable to go with them to school and who thus could not make informal contact with their teachers. We suggested that first schools serving one or two country villages might consider one or more classes of children from five to eight or nine, and a nursery group. We believed strongly in parents being involved in their children's school and suggested that in some instances children should be taken to school by attendance at a nursery group."

We described the work of one local authority who had pioneered the adaptation and rebuilding of country schools; how, to counter their isolation, close relationships were being developed by groups of schools. We suggested the possibility of a network of schools for new work, for subject requiring special skills such as music or for children with learning difficulties. We described the village community school, about which Mr Fairbairn, Director of Education in Leicestershire, has written to you.

The "Flowden Report" was written 13 or 14 years ago. As we wrote at the time: "At that stage I believe so. Since then, however, there has been change and development and my reservations today are stronger. First, there is an increasing awareness of the importance of the community to those individuals who make it up. Indeed, there are now being taken to provide facilities to create a community where none exists. In housing estates, for instance, it is right to take the best out of a community by taking away the children. This is a new kind of bond which is being created within and between families through a common interest in the school, involving parents and even grandparents which is both socially and educationally desirable."

There is no shortage of teachers today, the reverse. It is surely better to move the teaching to the children than vice versa. Today for instance, in an East Anglian village two small schools share a headmaster. The growth of the minibus makes visits between schools possible. It can also be used to take the oldest children to the local secondary school, both for the use of facilities and to make transfer less daunting. Playgroups have made a new kind of pre-school experience available given the right support. The growing acceptance of parents to help in schools can provide a new strength to the small school.

With all that we know today, the policy about village schools needs re-examination. It is not, everything we need to do is to keep those who are being kept open, especially those where with vision and conviction it is being shown that a small school has educational as well as social value. It is hoped that this may be the functions of the National Association for the Support of Small Schools.

Yours faithfully,  
FRIDGET PLOWDEN, Chairman,  
Central Advisory Council for Education (England) 1963-1966,  
7 Courtmore Gardens, W8.

## In the guard's van

From Miss M. P. Gilbertson  
Sir, We share the concern about the difficulties of travel experienced by disabled people which was expressed by Mr Quentin Crewe (letter September 1). However, in answer to his letter, we would like to say that we have often found them extremely helpful to disabled people on their journeys. Indeed, this year two groups, one from the Chesterfield District Local Association and one from the Mid-Wales Local Association, have spent weeks in London, and the success of the visits was due to the small group of volunteers who, in a small way, made the cooperation from British Rail staff.

Although the groups were travelling with group tickets, second class, they were allowed to travel to first class compartments. British Railways staff helped some of them from their wheelchairs into the compartments, and the chairs travelled in the guard's van. Where it was too difficult to lift the passengers, the wheelchairs were pushed into the compartment.

We realize that some railway stock is unsuitable, but we have been encouraged by the great help we have received, particularly from the train conductors.

Yours faithfully,  
MOYNA P. GILBERTSON, Chief Executive Officer,  
Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus,  
Tavistock House North,  
Tavistock Square, WC1,  
September 1.

## Trade unions and productivity

From the Chairman of United Biscuits

Sir, In your leader yesterday (September 5) you took issue with James Prior's criticism of British industrial management and laid the blame for our low productivity on trade union failure. I believe that Mr Prior was correct in at least one essential respect.

Management in this country has failed to communicate and lead. With work forces unimpressed about the economic facts of life, the balance of influence has inevitably swung to the unions. It is now essential that managements redress that balance by ensuring that they communicate with and lead their work forces more effectively. In the United States, Japan and Germany employees do not need to have explained to them that wealth has to be created before it can be distributed. That companies must be allowed to make sufficient profit to invest at a level which will maintain their international competitiveness, and that investment must be worked to maximum efficiency. They understand the advantages of a free enterprise system in advancing the standard of living of the vast majority of people and accept the economic self-discipline necessary to achieving real increased national wealth.

When British managements recognise the vital importance of communicating and leading more effectively, and take action to correct their failure, then trust will be built and no industrial relations gradually improve. Trade union members will thus recognise the inadequacies of present union structures and will see the wisdom of accepting that unions must be brought within the law. In that climate, a responsible industrial democracy will emerge. It is our own as a constructive force to enhance the nation's wealth-creating capacity.

Yours sincerely,  
RECTOR LAING,  
Chairman,  
United Biscuits,  
From Lane,  
Telford,  
Shropshire,  
September 6.

From Mr Paul Sanderson  
Sir, In your September 2 editorial you claim that if everyone had resigned from our trade unions five years ago, resulting in their disappearance, British wages would be about double what they are now, employment would be higher and the pound back to something like \$2.40. I am sorry that the end of the year it will take some bearing.

It would seem to make several implied assumptions:

1. That, in the absence of trade unions, workers would have been prepared to accept every management

decision regardless of the immediate consequences, and of their long term interests as they saw them.

2. That management would at all times have made wise decisions whilst at the same time treating workers with scrupulous fairness. That "industry" would have expanded at a sufficient rate to guarantee employment to those made redundant through increased automation.

Life is just not like that. If unionism had disappeared, management would not doubt have used the opportunity to try to increase productivity, but the same case would have been made to minimise pay increases and to maximise profits. Workers would have been banded together at shop floor level to fight sackings and to obtain a fair share of any increased profits arising from increased productivity.

What you are really saying is that if workers had lost all their rights to combine together, and if management had been allowed to hire, fire and shuffle workers at will, the result would have been an economic miracle. To realise the case would have been widespread strife as workers fought, as in the last century, to win the right to organise for their own protection. The resulting chaos would not have been conducive to economic success.

Your claim amounts to no more than woolly minded wishful thinking. Unions are not perfect, and on occasion are unhelpful and even harmful. However, we would do well to heed Mr Prior's warning, writing in *The Sunday Telegraph* yesterday, stated his belief that over the past 50 years bad management was more responsible for the problems of British industry than bad unions.

Perhaps if 50 years ago we could have replaced incompetent management with supermen we would now be living in utopia. However, this statement is just about as factually irrelevant as yours about wishing for a return to capitalism.

Yours faithfully,  
PAUL SANDERSON,  
Ellis Farm Close,  
Westfield,  
Woking,  
Surrey,  
September 4.

## Charles Laughton

From Mr Will Wyatt  
Sir, I am sorry that Mr Tom Laughton (September 5) was unhappy about some parts of the "Hollywood Greats" programme about his brother Charles. The actor certainly believed himself to be ugly, but viewers could make up their own minds as the programme contained many photographs and film clips as well as contributions asserting that he was better looking than a lot of more obviously good looking people.

As to Charles Laughton being cruel, one of the interviewers did use this word of his behaviour and others said that he could be difficult and unpleasant, but this must be balanced against accounts, some from the same people, as to his sensitivity, gentleness and profound sympathy—the film tried to present the different sides of a complex

and fascinating man. I think that Mr Tom Laughton was mistaken, too, when he said that his brother was presented as "a man who could not face up to death". The intention was quite the opposite, and the film contained several moving stories of the actor's bravery and determination not to give in, notably from Mr Billy Wilder and Mr Christopher Isherwood.

Finally, I would hope that the tone of the programme could be judged by part of the closing assessment by the reporter, Mr Barry Norman: "Charles Laughton was an actor of phenomenal range, intelligence and sensitivity, an actor of genuine greatness."

Yours faithfully,  
WILL WYATT,  
British Broadcasting Corporation,  
Television Centre,  
Wood Lane, W12,  
September 6.

## Sport without drugs

From Mr Tom McNab

Sir, The comment that holds sport together is the fact that all competitors meet under the same rule and that should these rules be broken, punishment will be just and firmly applied. As was Shuplak of the German Democratic Republic stood on the rostrum winner of the European Women Shot Put, after having served a year suspension for taking anabolic steroids. It would be naive to suppose that he took these drugs as a matter of personal choice, that it was the only East German ever to do so, or that this practice was common in Eastern Europe as a matter of policy and in the West as one of individual choice.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation has now extended its punishment of drug offenders to a further eighteen months, as there is no likelihood that random out of season testing is likely to occur.

Four years ago, the British Association of National Coaches proposed that if the drug problem could not be solved, then British should consider selective withdrawal from international competition. I suggest that in athletics that point has not been reached. At this time I do not think that the British Amateur Athletic Board, the horror with which it was greeted was probably less because of the principle involved than because a national coach had had the impudence to put it to them.

Athletics has now divided into two distinct camps. The first is that of Eastern Europe, whose athletes have a strong ethical support system topped up by an unethical (but in the much undetectable) pharmaceutical system. The second is that of the West, where top athletes receive a patchy, variable support system and play roulette with illegal pharmaceutical aids.

In politics, when one is a member of a movement or party, you whom one is in conflict over a fundamental issue, the honourable course is to withdraw. I believe that drugs are such a fundamental issue. Let us therefore consider withdrawal: let our youth compete freely and joyfully with those nations with whom we can secure workable agreements on drug testing and other central issues.

Sport without ethics is not sport. We in Britain must ask our administrators if they honestly believe that there is any prospect of the necessary random testing which will rid international athletics of drugs. If there is no such prospect, then believe that we should compete only with those countries who share, and practise our ethical beliefs, the lie which lie at the heart of sport: yours faithfully,  
TOM MCNAB,  
British Olympic Coach,  
9 Corder Close,  
Westfield,  
St Albans,  
Hertfordshire,  
September 4.

From Sir Michael Woodruff, FRS  
Sir, Your perceptive leader (September 5) about the trade unions states explicitly what many people feel, but our political leaders of whatever party cannot see or dare not say. You might perhaps have added that the practices you deplore have spread to the real earnings, not only of those involved but of scientists, doctors, teachers and other professional people who, by and large, work as hard as their colleagues in other developed countries but earn much less.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL WOODRUFF,  
506 Lansark Road,  
Junior Green,  
Middletown.

pected her to bemoan the fact and commit her party to doing everything possible to remedy the situation.

I confess to great pessimism about the political fate of this country, not to head off the cynics, just because I am a representative of a period in the real earnings, not only of those involved but of scientists, doctors, teachers and other professional people who, by and large, work as hard as their colleagues in other developed countries but earn much less.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL WOODRUFF,  
506 Lansark Road,  
Junior Green,  
Middletown.

Whether one agrees with Margaret Thatcher or not, she is the only one who has the courage to stand up for the values of a free society and to do so on her own terms. She deserves the same respect and treatment as that given to her male colleagues—no less.

Yours faithfully,  
JANET YOUNG,  
Deputy Chairman, Organization,  
Conservative Party,  
Central Office,  
37 Smith Square,  
Westminster, SW1,  
August 31.

From Miss Jill Craigie  
Sir, Millicent Fawcett certainly remained her high regard for the Liberal MP, Charles Laughton, of Dame Margery Corbett Ashby. But Dame Margery, whom I greatly respect, seems to have forgotten that the National Union of Women Suffragists did indeed support the Labour Party in 1913. At the council meeting, when this new policy was adopted, £2,000 was immediately subscribed for the Election Fighting Fund. In the course of by-elections fought during this time, many of them spent and repaid on many occasions.

Millicent Fawcett explains the reason for this change in the Society's policy in Chapter XX of her autobiography, *What I Remember*.

Yours faithfully,  
JILL CRAIGIE,  
66 Pilgrims Lane,  
Hampstead, NW3.

From Mr Edward R. Bruce  
Sir, Chessmanship did start at Reykjavik in 1972 and it will certainly not end at Dagio in 1973. The psychological aspects of chess at the master level have been explored for years. It is a form of gamesmanship not without its complexities in international politics and the present championship match is certainly influenced by the political scene.

One can "play the board" or "play the man"—although at the grandmaster level both approaches usually overlap. Chess is an intellectual confrontation in which emotional associations cannot be discounted. Perhaps the only time when relatively "pure" and unhindered chess can be played is when the moves are sent by post. Postal chess obviates the pressure of staring eyes, secret rars, and hypnotic distractions. But it is not nearly as exciting and no one would regularly report the results of a postal chess match.

Yours faithfully,  
E. R. BRUCE,  
20 Moorhouse Close,  
Aylesbury,  
Buckinghamshire,  
September 4.

## Loyal dissidents

From Mrs Frances Cole  
Sir, Those who in eastern bloc countries work towards getting the Helsinki agreement honoured are surely tipped by the use of the blanket term "dissidents", since many of them will be in the category of those involved but of scientists, doctors, teachers and other professional people who, by and large, work as hard as their colleagues in other developed countries but earn much less.

Yours, etc,  
FRANCES COLE,  
63 Gloucester Place W1,  
August 23.

## Recompense in chess

From Professor Wilson Knight  
Sir, As a chess-player of many years' standing (I played for Oxford & Cambridge in 1923), I have been naturally distressed at the level to which the world championship has fallen.

I applaud your excellent leader in *The Times* of August 31st. It is probable that Korchukov came out of it unhappily. It is too much to ask that the Russian government, recognizing that a wrong has been done, should in recompense grant his family their freedom? In this way, we would be restoring balance to the world of chess, courtesy would be seen to prevail against greed; and a game, it is a game—perhaps even be the cause of inaugurating a new and sweeter understanding among nations. I ask this in the name of chess, in which Russia has pre-eminence; in this cause, at least, she can afford to be generous; and generosity might have lasting results.

Yours faithfully,  
G. R. WILSON KNIGHT,  
Carolina House,  
Streatham Rise,  
Exeter,  
August 31.

From Mr Edward R. Bruce  
Sir, Chessmanship did start at Reykjavik in 1972 and it will certainly not end at Dagio in 1973. The psychological aspects of chess at the master level have been explored for years. It is a form of gamesmanship not without its complexities in international politics and the present championship match is certainly influenced by the political scene.

One can "play the board" or "play the man"—although at the grandmaster level both approaches usually overlap. Chess is an intellectual confrontation in which emotional associations cannot be discounted. Perhaps the only time when relatively "pure" and unhindered chess can be played is when the moves are sent by post. Postal chess obviates the pressure of staring eyes, secret rars, and hypnotic distractions. But it is not nearly as exciting and no one would regularly report the results of a postal chess match.

Yours faithfully,  
E. R. BRUCE,  
20 Moorhouse Close,  
Aylesbury,  
Buckinghamshire,  
September 4.







BEDSON French attack  
ologist on  
unemployment,  
page 21

# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

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### Leyland link with Renault or Fiat needed to counter Chrysler deal unions say

By Donald Macintyre  
British motor manufacture could be reduced to "little more than an assembly industry" unless adequate safeguards are built into a Peugeot-Citroen takeover of Chrysler Europe's vehicle operations, according to a document to be discussed today by union leaders.

The report, besides insisting on government stake in any new company, suggests an early link-up between British Leyland and Renault or Fiat, and a possible takeover of British Leyland by Chrysler's European truck operations.

The still-confidential document drawn up by the research departments of five major unions gives a warning that the "inseparable" logic of the merger is that Leyland will slip further down the league table in an industry where size and economies of scale are all-important.

The tone of the report is that the merger is almost inevitable despite the threat of adverse consequences in the British motor industry. It makes a point of recognising the inescapable logic of the deal from Peugeot-Citroen's own point of view, given its need to become a pan-European operation.

However, it says that the takeover would be "to the detriment of the British component industry, unless firm commitments in this respect can be obtained from the French company."

It acknowledges the attractiveness, particularly in the short term, of a link-up of Leyland Cars and Chrysler UK as an alternative, which would create a British motor company able to produce nearly 1.5 million passenger cars a year.

But given that Leyland would probably not be able, partly for financial reasons, to make a counter-bid for Chrysler

### £198m surplus on current account

By David Blake  
Economics Correspondent  
A surplus of £333m on invisibles gave Britain a current account surplus of £198m in the second quarter of this year, both the invisibles and the current account figures were considerably better than the first quarter, but there was a warning in the first half of the year compared with the first half of 1977.

Higher contributions to the EEC worsened the Government's position and in the second quarter of the year there was a deterioration of the private sector's account as well, largely because of a sharp rise in the first quarter.

The biggest change has come from a sharp rise in our contribution to the European Community, which was particularly heavy in the first quarter.

There has, however, also been a worsening in the balance on services provided by private sector and public corporations, whereas a surplus of £80m in the second quarter compared with £324m in the first quarter and the peak of £97m in the third quarter of last year.

Sea transport, often thought of as a major plus point for the foreign exchange account, actually recorded a deficit of £106m in the second quarter because we paid foreign shippers bringing imports to Britain more than we gained elsewhere. There was a £55m surplus on civil aviation.

One sector where the high surplus

### 'Priorities wrong' on microcircuit project

By Kenneth Owen  
Technology Correspondent  
The British Government's moves to promote an indigenous microelectronics industry capable of producing the most advanced types of standard integrated circuits was described yesterday as "putting the cart before the horse" by Mr. Robin Wilmut, managing director of Texas Instruments, Bedford, the United Kingdom subsidiary of the American-owned multinational electronics company.

Texas Instruments is the world's largest producer of semi-conductors integrated circuits, and is believed to be on the point of announcing a large-capacity computer memory microcircuit ahead of its American competitors.

This memory circuit, known as a 64-kilobit random access memory (64K RAM), is the main type of circuit which the National Enterprise Board's recently established Immos subsidiary will develop and market. The British company's circuit is expected to be in volume production before 1981.

The initial business plan for Immos calls for peak National Enterprise Board funding of £50m. In a separate move intended to assist the existing British-based microelectronics industry, Mr. Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, has announced a £70m support programme for the next five years.

Mr. Wilmut said the first priority was to strengthen the electronic equipment industry by giving it access to the use of the latest available component technology, whatever the country of origin. The question of component production in the United Kingdom could follow.

We have to get our end-equipment companies to the point where they are equal to or ahead of manufacturers in the United States or Japan in their use of microelectronics," Mr. Wilmut said.

On the subject of the NEB Immos project, Mr. Wilmut said that the total income tax paid by all the employees in the United Kingdom semiconductor industry would not be enough to finance the £50m NEB programme.

Texas Instruments worldwide was spending about £150m this year on capital investment in new production, and additional £100m on research and development. In the United Kingdom the company was "waiting to let the dust settle" before deciding whether to apply for Department of Industry support (for which the company would certainly qualify, Mr. Wilmut commented).

New products announced by the company yesterday include a quartz watch which combines digital circuitry with the traditional analogue display, and a liquid-crystal display (LCD) and a portable "speak and spell" learning aid with which children can practise spelling, using an alphabetical keyboard and a small electronic voice produced by voice response.

The price of the watch (described as "the world's first totally electronic quartz liquid-crystal display analogue watch") is about £200, while the spelling aid, which has an electronic voice and brain, is now being introduced in the United States at \$50 or about £25.

### Striking toolmakers meet AUEW officials

By Clifford Webb  
In an unexpected move last night, leaders of the 32 toolmakers' unions met AUEW officials in Birmingham headquarters of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers for their first talks with full-time officials since the stoppage began nearly five weeks ago.

In conditions of some secrecy, management representatives arrived at a nearby hotel shortly afterwards. They did not meet the SU men, but officials acted as go-betweens.

After three hours of talks, it was announced that the negotiations would resume at 2 pm today. Mr. George Regan, the leader of the SU toolmakers, said: "I suppose so long as we are talking there is hope. But the company will still have to put money on the table before I am prepared to recommend a return to work."

The talks almost collapsed when Mr. Regan and colleagues, Mr. Albert Benbow and Mr. George Partridge, stormed out of the conference room complaining that they had been left alone with the company officials while talking in management in the hotel.

They were just leaving the building when Mr. Ken Cure, the Birmingham East district secretary, and Mr. Bill Jordan, divisional organiser persuaded them to return.

These developments are an attempt by both sides to pull back from the brink of an all-out strike in support of the SU men which is threatened by

### French tax increases in Budget

From Ian Murray  
Paris, Sept 6  
The French Government unveiled its new employment measures today alongside its Budget to show that it is considering the problem of finding jobs an essential part of stabilising the economy.

The Budget, which will cost Fr459,000m (about £54,643m) includes higher taxes on petrol, alcohol and tobacco.

Unemployment is not specifically mentioned in the Budget, but a great emphasis is being placed on the need for consultation between the "social partners" to create a permanent solution to the problem.

The immediate, however, a special fund is being set up worth 3,000m francs. It will be managed by a committee under M. Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister, and will be ready for use as soon as the committee agrees on a particular region or industry in need of help.

A further 120m francs is being put aside for "artificial and purely temporary" jobs called "jobs of utility".

The government has rejected the temptation of creating jobs in the public sector to soak up unemployment, it makes an exception of a type of work which it deems to improve the quality of life and remedy certain social ills.

The Government has told unions an management that they must be seen to reduce the level of unemployment, or otherwise the government is going to pass a law fixing a maximum working week. The average working week at 42 hours is the longest in Western Europe.

Budget tax increases include 14.4 per cent on last year's planned. All but the big pay, however, can expect some income tax relief as a result of the new tax law.

The use in the cost of petrol will be around 12 centimes a litre, bringing in an extra 50m francs. Road tax rises in 20 to 22 francs a horse-power of the vehicle, raising further 100m.

Unemployment attacked, Sept 21

### US energy Bill urged to aid dollar

From Fran Vogt  
Washington, Sept 6  
Mr. W. M. Miller, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, said today that the dollar would continue to face problems in the currency markets unless the Congress passed a comprehensive energy bill.

Miller said a new energy policy would be a "very positive sense. We do not want to see the dollar become worse if the energy market went ahead."

"(The French) must accept and recognize British trade unions and all that means in a very positive sense. We do not want to see the dollar become worse if the energy market went ahead."

Mr. Douglas Hoyle, president of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, and M.P. for Nelson and Colne, said that in the last resort as many as 500,000 jobs could be affected.

### Slump in shipping activities cuts P & O first half profit by £25.8m

By Christopher Wilkins  
Lord Inchcape became chairman of P & O in January 1973 after giving his backing to a group of P & O executives, including Mr. Marshall, in opposition to a proposed merger with the Bovis building concern.

One of the immediate decisions facing the board relates to P & O's growing fleet of liquid petroleum gas carriers. In addition to the existing fleet of six P & O tankers, the company is to acquire two new gas carriers earlier this year and two more are due to be delivered, one this year and one next.

In its last annual report P & O said its commitment in this area was "out of balance" and it was "investigating a number of options to correct the position". Mr. Brooks said the company was having discussions to reduce commitments in gas carriers, and that this could involve some of the older ships as well as the new ones. No announcement is likely for some time.

Mr. Oliver Brooks, P & O's finance director, emphasized last night that there would be no change in Mr. Marshall's role, but that in view of the difficult decisions to be made the board had asked Lord Inchcape to become involved more closely.

### Australia blocks Brooke Bond bid for tea group

By Ray Maughan  
Diversification by Brooke Bond, the British food group, through the £20.5m bid for Bushells Investments, has been blocked by the Australian Foreign Investment Review Board on the grounds that it would be contrary to the national interest.

Brooke Bond, which had planned a cash deal for the Australian tea company, financed by multi-currency borrowing, was looking for a favourable decision from the FIRB and expressed "surprise and disappointment" at the rejection.

Holding a 20 per cent stake in Bushells' main trading subsidiary, the British company said yesterday that it would now decide whether to retain a presence in Australia. Bushells, which holds more than half the Australian market for packer tea and about 12 per cent of the tea-bag market, has been in

### Storm claims bite into profits at Sun Alliance

By Richard Allen  
Sun Alliance, the leading UK household insurance group, has paid out £6.5m to settle claims arising from winter storms and flood damage.

These exceptional payments have combined with losses from personal home insurance and motor business to reduce the group's first-half profits by almost a third to £20.7m. The results compared with stock market estimates ranging from £26m to £34m and Sun Alliance's shares consequently fell 22p to 535p.

The disappointing result also produced sharp falls throughout the rest of the insurance sector. Phoenix Assurance, down 6p to 244p, after reporting a £200,000 drop in interim profits in £17m and Guardian Royal Exchange, down 20p to 234p, after reporting a £3m rise to £29.3m.

A spokesman for Sun Alliance said yesterday that the exceptional weather caused almost all the group's £6.5m underwriting losses in home business in the first six months.

### Brussels agrees options on monetary plan

From Peter Norman  
Brussels, Sept 6  
The EEC monetary committee today agreed on the various alternatives for realising the planned new European monetary system (EMS). These will be presented in a paper to finance ministers before their next meeting in Brussels on September 18.

The committee, which is made up of top European finance and central bank officials, has thus completed the initial technical work needed to create the EMS.

It is understood that the members have expressed no preference between the options drawn up by their deputies.

It will be up to the finance ministers either to delay decision or choose between the various definitions of numerical, the differing mechanisms of foreign exchange market intervention and the means of creating the proposed European monetary fund the experts have devised on the basis of the annex communiqué issued after the EEC summit in Luxembourg at the beginning of July.

The paper, which will be formally drawn up tomorrow, will work from the stipulation that a new European currency unit should be at the centre of the new system.

It will leave open whether

### TRADE INDEMNITY COMPANY LIMITED

Interim Report by the Chairman, Mr. K. M. Bevins, CBE, TD, on the six months ended 30 June, 1978

The Directors have declared an Interim Dividend of 3.46269 pence per Ordinary Share in respect of the financial year which will end on 31 December, 1978. This Dividend carries a Tax Credit of 1.70550 pence, making a total of 5.16819 pence per share. The Interim Dividend for 1977 was 3.07155 pence per share.

Following the reduction in the rate of Advance Corporation Tax, the Directors have also declared an Additional Interim Dividend of 0.08072 pence per Ordinary Share which, with the Tax Credit of 0.03978 pence, amounts to 0.12050 pence per share. This Dividend is in place of the extra amount which would have been declared as part of the 1977 Final Dividend had the reduction in the rate of Advance Corporation Tax been known at that time. The Additional Interim Dividend declared at this time last year was 0.07336 pence per share.

Both Dividends will be paid on 2 November next to Shareholders in the Register at the close of business on 23 October.

**PREMIUMS WRITTEN** on the three open Underwriting Accounts in the first half of 1978 totalled £9,659,000, an increase of 4.2 per cent on the comparable figure for the first half of 1977.


**THE 1976 UNDERWRITING ACCOUNT** at 30 June, 1978, after making provision for all known claims, showed a credit balance of £2,049,000. This compares with a credit balance of £1,236,000 on the 1975 Account at the same stage a year ago.

**THE 1977 UNDERWRITING ACCOUNT** showed at 30 June, 1978 a credit balance of £2,035,000 after making provision for all known claims. The credit balance on the 1976 Account a year ago was £2,109,000, including at that time the sum of £500,000 transferred from Profit and Loss Account at the end of the first year of the Account. This transfer was written back to the Profit and Loss Account at the end of the second year of the 1976 Account.

All balances exclude the Underwriting Contingency Reserve of £500,000 created at the end of last year.

As anticipated, the Company's premiums written on the three open Underwriting Accounts have been affected by lower world prices and the generally lower value of sales transacted by policyholders. The 1976 and 1977 Underwriting Accounts have progressed most satisfactorily. The 1978 Underwriting Account, however, has so far borne the brunt of the fall in premiums written but, with thirty months still to run before its closure at the end of 1980, it is too early to form any definite view as to its outcome.

5th September, 1978.



## "A further move forward in a more difficult year"

"In the light of the recent market for the company's principal products it is gratifying to report profits at a new record level". Gerald Garman, Chairman.

Summary of Results	1977/78	1976/77	%
U.K. sales	14,259,088	11,546,818	+234%
Export sales	1,428,584	1,148,277	+242%
Total sales	15,687,672	12,695,095	+233%
Profit before tax	1,773,108	1,468,925	+203%
Profit after tax and minority interests	836,813	691,496	+21%
Earnings per share	3.31p	2.73p	+21%
Dividends per share (including tax credit)	1.452p	1.320p	+10%
Net assets per 5p share	18.48p	15.54p	+19%

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Secretary, P.O. Box 22, All Saints Road, Wednesbury, West Midlands WS10 9LN.

### F. H. TOMKINS LTD.

BUCKLE MANUFACTURERS  
STAINLESS STEEL FASTENERS  
HIGH TENSILE BOLTS & NUTS  
COLD DRAWN STEEL  
FASTER DISTRIBUTION

### Doubts on investment reserve scheme

An investment reserve scheme to encourage contracyclical investment by British industry would be hard to introduce while the system of full capital allowances remains, according to reports by a National Economic Development Office working party and a group of Government officials.

The reports suggest an investment reserve scheme would, in this situation, be neither attractive enough to industry nor cost effective for the nation.

The Government officials suggest that a scheme put forward by the working party from NEDO would have to be tightened up to prevent tax evasion.

Economic Notebook, page 21

### How the markets moved

Rises		Falls	
Apex Foods	10p to 240p	Bowater Corp	4p to 195p
£1 of NSW	10p to 600p	Centraway	5p to 285p
Broken Hill	10p to 715p	Decca A	10p to 445p
Country & New	10p to 27p	Gen Accident	6p to 222p
Downing	10p to 27p	Lockwoods Fds	4p to 115p
Guthrie Corp	13p to 336p	Matthews Wson	5p to 195p
Hawthorn L	6p to 78p	McKay Bess	5p to 280p
Medminster		Pearson Long	9p to 235p
MT Holdings	8p to 182p	Phoenix	6p to 244p
New Thurgim cap	10p to 142p	Pilkington	10p to 305p
Nio Tinto Zinc	8p to 240p	Royal	7p to 370p
Northbrook	10p to 45p	Sun Alliance	2p to 535p
Walker J. Gold	12p to 128p	Wills Faber	4p to 373p
Whitlock Mar	5p to 542p	Yarrow	5p to 300p
Equities marked time. Cautious securities ended unchanged. The pound rose 1.74p to 221.25. The effective exchange rate index was at 62.3.			
Dollar premium 91.25 per cent (effective rate 42.84 per cent). Sterling was unchanged at 81.9425. The effective exchange rate index was at 62.3.			
Gold gained \$3.25 an ounce to \$313.125. SDR-S was 1.27349 on Tuesday, while SDR-E was 0.655290. Commodities: Rubber's index was at 1,471.4 (previous 1,470.5). Reports, pages 23, 24 and 25.			
THE POUND		On other pages	
Australia \$	1.74	Business appointments	24
Austria Sch	29.00	Appointments vacant	20, 27
Belgium Bf	65.00	Wall Street	25
Canada Cdn	2.12	Bank Base Rates Table	25
Denmark Kr	11.01	Annual statements:	
Finland Mk	8.24	F. H. Tomkins	19
France Fr	8.72	Hampton Gold	25
Germany Dm	4.02	Internat. Statements:	
Greece Dr	72.00	Anglo-American Investment	24
Hongkong \$	9.50	Trust Limited	19
Italy Lt	164.00	Guardian Royal Exchange	24
Japan Yn	393.00	Mysoo	24
Netherlands Gld	4.36	Phoenix Assurance	22
Norway Kr	10.50	Portals	24
Portugal Esc	89.00	Sun Alliance	21
S Africa Rd	1.97	Trade Indemnity	19
Spain Pes	147.50		
Sweden Kr	8.53		
Switzerland Fr	3.30		
US \$	1.99		
Yugoslavia Dnr	40.75		







BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## P & O's judgment on the dividend

Like Ocean Transport, P & O has decided to pay an unchanged interim dividend and is more than likely to maintain its final at the year end. Whether it should do so is another matter. Against a first half net loss of £4.5m, the interim payment is, of course, uncovered, and although second half trading should be better, there is little chance of sufficient full year earnings being generated to meet a total prospective dividend cost of £9.2m. Moreover, P & O is experiencing a further big cash outflow this year to fund investment of about £100m.

The case for maintaining dividends in such circumstances, aside from how it might upset the institutions and hurt the share rating, can only revolve around whether profits seem likely to recover reasonably quickly. There is some guarded cause for optimism, but not much. Bovis is on a strong upturn, as are the passenger-shipping interests; the £1.8m loss in energy and the downturn in European Transport and Agency Services are both largely explained by one-off factors; the contribution from OCL, down from £10m to £4.4m, should only begin to rise.

But the heart of the business remains deeply depressed. The existing problems in bulk shipping, which lost £5.4m at the half year, have been exacerbated by the delivery of two big new gas carriers and two more are still due to be delivered, one this year and one next. P & O itself says that while conditions in the deep-sea trades are showing tentative signs of having stabilized, there is no indication of a sustained upturn yet.

The important Middle East trades, in particular, have been very competitive, despite P & O's virtual absence of tanker problems. So this year pre-tax profits may be no more than £15m against £42.8m (£34.2m excluding exceptional and ship sales), and while something better can be expected in 1979 the yield of 11 per cent at 86p is not yet a case for buying, given that the dividend may even then be only barely covered.

### Insurance shares

#### Upset by Sun Alliance

Exceptional storm losses and some particularly heavy fire claims left Sun Alliance's interim results far below market expectations and raised more question marks over an already nervous composite insurance sector yesterday.

At £20.7m Sun's pre-tax profits are almost a third down on the previous period and, incidentally, more than £13m below the latest forecast of one leading stockbroker. Under these circumstances, uninspiring performances, reported by Guardian Royal Exchange and Phoenix, were not sufficient to prevent blood-letting throughout the sector.

Sun Alliance's shares fell 22p to 535p, while Phoenix, whose profits dipped slightly to £17m lost 6p to 244p. Even GRE shares, whose profits increased of £3m to £29.3m, were in line with outside estimates, eased 2p to 234p.

All three groups experienced tough underwriting conditions particularly during the first quarter in the United Kingdom. But Sun Alliance, with perhaps a fifth of the household market, found itself footing huge claims for damage resulting from floods and storms.

The group reckons that abnormal weather losses were responsible for nearly all the £6.9m underwriting loss on home business and with exceptional fire losses in the United Kingdom and overseas, and problems in motor business, last year's £2.8m underwriting surplus was replaced by a £10.5m loss.

GRE's underwriting loss widened from £4.3m to £6.1m in the first half due to similar factors on the household front, but the group seems to have fared rather better than Sun Alliance in at least making up some of the ground lost in the first three months through a profitable second quarter.

With stable conditions at home, the omens must be reasonably good for the three United Kingdom-orientated groups to make up much of the underwriting leeway in the second half, although conditions abroad still range from poor in the case of Holland and Germany to bad in the case of Australia.

Ironically, yesterday's news and the consequent shakeout may provide the first real trigger for a shift of emphasis towards the

United Kingdom specialists and away from United States-orientated groups like Commercial Union and Royal Insurance who have been producing impressive results on the back of the upturn in the American underwriting cycle.

As doubts about the extent of the United States cycle come home to roost, yesterday's falls may provide just the right sort of opportunity for switching, particularly into GRE whose profits still seem to be heading for around £70m against £59m and whose prospective 7.2 per cent yield is relatively attractive.

### Guinness Peat

#### A successful cocktail

Guinness Peat is now underlining that its cocktail of commodity trading, banking and insurance mixed during the 1973 merger is really starting to show its paces. Trading profits in the year to the end of April have moved up by £2m to £11.1m and with the merchant bank benefiting from its recent revamp up by a third to £1.6m, after tax profits of £7.95m are now more than double what they were after the setback of 1975.

As usual, though with the refusal of the group to provide any detailed breakdown of its activities, it is difficult to pinpoint exactly its strengths and weaknesses. But apart from insurance, which dropped back slightly after its exceptional performance the previous year, the group is firing on all cylinders with the international operations (where the big Sudan project for instance has started to contribute) coming in for special mention.

The only casualty then has been the associates whose contribution has slipped from £2.76m to £2.19m owing to the poor performance of Esperanza, which seems to have overreached its management capabilities for the moment, and Linford which has been hit by the High Street "price war".

But the fact that Guinness Peat has weathered this is an indication of its growing strength in depth. For the current year it is still too early to tell what commodity trading will bring but the bank still has some profits from the Polish ship deal to add to the push into project development should start to come through more quickly.

If the momentum of the past three years does, as seems likely, slow down the shares at 252p selling at 10 times earnings look fairly valued, especially as the group has been only able to push the dividend up by 3 per cent after the boost given it by the LEGS acquisition last year where the yield is 6.7 per cent.

### Hepworth Ceramic

#### The steel slump leaves its mark

Hepworth Ceramic's abortive bid for Johnson-Richards Tiles earlier this year and yesterday's interim results—which while reasonably good reflect the sort of pressures companies like this are having to contend with in the home market—say it all. Hepworth, closely geared to activity in the steel industry to which it supplies refractory materials and with around 80 per cent of its profits coming from the United Kingdom, saw Johnson-Richards as an ideal opportunity to overcome the restrictions on expansion at home.

It pulled out when faced with a Monopolies Commission inquiry, and is now looking at possibilities of expanding its existing American business with acquisitions in the pipe and plastics sectors. Meanwhile it is having to struggle hard to maintain momentum. Profits so far are 161 per cent higher at £14.9m, the outcome of a delicate balancing act between relatively good demand for building materials alongside an improved housebuilding programme and still fairly desperate conditions throughout the world's steel industry.

In fact, Hepworth would have done slightly better if there had not been a prolonged strike at Hepworth Iron, so there is some recovery potential here for the final quarter. But the 1978 outcome may be less inspiring than has been the case over the past two years. All of which suggests the shares at 94p are high enough, yielding 51 per cent and selling at perhaps 61 times prospective earnings.

prospectively earnings.

### Economic notebook

## Stumbling over the peaks and troughs

Near the end of 1978 there was much understandable worry that Britain would not be ready for the next up-turn of the world economy. Our notorious reluctance to invest in sufficient quantity or in good time risked creating bottlenecks.

The desirability of trying to use investment both to smooth out the peaks and troughs in the business cycle, coupled with a feeling that the tendency of business to delay investment until too late led to a reduction in the overall level of investment, caused renewed interest in ways of encouraging more investment during the lean years.

The most concrete proposal put forward for dealing with the problem came from Mr John Hughes of Ruskell College, Oxford, who suggested copying the Investment Reserve Fund approach which has been in operation in Sweden for some time. Hughes' scheme was put forward in a Fabian pamphlet in March 1976.

By April 1976 the Chancellor of the Exchequer was able to welcome the decision of the National Economic Development Council's committee on finance to start an "immediate study".

Just why the delay occurred is not clear. The original study was led by Lord Hailsham, but it seems to have been finished in the summer of 1976 and the official comments to have been written in 1977. Indeed, the report talks about the 1975 Finance Act as being the first time when such a scheme could have been introduced.

### Swedish model

The fact that nothing has been done suggests either there is deep opposition to the whole idea of setting up some sort of reserve fund, or that those who argue that the British government machine is so cumbersome and slow as to be incapable of acting fast enough to run a counter-cyclical policy have got a point.

The idea behind the Swedish investment reserve fund is simple. It is that companies should be asked to contribute to a fund which would be used to invest when times are hard. That, of course, is what any prudent company will do in some extent in any case. But it is clear that companies tend to time their investment so that it coincides with or comes after a recovery in the rest of the economy.

It means that during the recovery the economy quickly runs into bottlenecks because machinery has not been installed in sufficient quantities during the previous downturn.

It could also mean that because investment is put off until the last minute it comes too steam just as the economy is about to turn down again. This is not just bad for the individual companies; it could tend to reduce the overall level of investment over a period of time.

What the Swedish system asks to do is use the tax system to encourage companies to behave in a way which is rational from the Swedish point of view. Swedish companies are allowed to allocate money to the investment fund which is free of tax. Companies pay 45 per cent of the money into a special account at the central bank which earns no interest. When a recession comes the state-backed labour market board can give com-

panies the right to draw money out of the fund to finance their investment. After five years, they can in any case draw 30 per cent.

Could such a scheme work here? Neither of the two studies which have just been published is really much help in deciding.

There are a number of quite basic questions about the cost of capital and its effect on investment which ought really to be answered before judgments can be made on any kind of incentive to investment. Evidence to the Wilson committee has tended to suggest that companies often see the lack of suitable projects as the great barrier to investment rather than the availability or the cost of capital.

On economic grounds, though, if investment decisions are at all rational any scheme which effectively reduces the cost of investment makes it more attractive and thus makes it more likely to be carried out. So we ought to be able to assume that if the practicalities can be worked out, the scheme would be carried out.

The problem, as the Morse committee realised, is that companies in Britain already have access to such a source of funds at all times through the working of the "free depreciation" system. Thus any new scheme would have to involve the government in giving yet larger subsidies to investment; or it would involve switching the money which it gives in investment assistance from the existing system towards a new scheme which would involve forcing companies to take part by imposing a compulsory levy to set up a fund.

That is a fairly straightforward set of options. Yet there seems to be no serious discussion of the merits of the three of them, perhaps because a panel containing the general secretary of the TUC and a finance director of ICI would not be able to agree on firm conclusions.

What we have instead is a reminder that the Government is committed to continuing the existing scheme of depreciation (until "beyond 1977"). So although there is an illustrative example of what an interventionist policy relying on contributions from companies like there is no attempt either to argue the case for its or against it.

It is, however, noticeable that in their study the government officials do not even bother to look at the compulsory scheme; they examine only the voluntary one which they describe as the "Morse scheme".

It is here that another very striking point emerges. It is assumed that any scheme would be additional to existing investment allowances rather than instead of them. The study makes no attempt to argue the merits of doing this, even though the money which government spends on industrial support ought to be subjected to careful scrutiny.

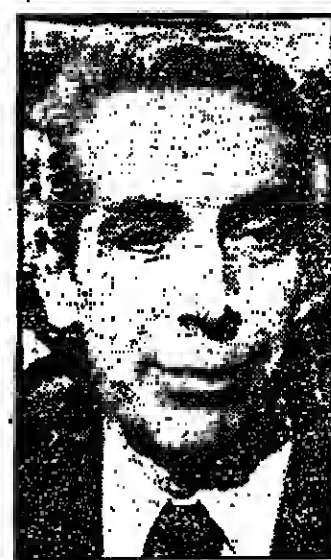
Let us assume, at the moment, that this fits with reality, however. Even then the working party's paper is a piece of work. It says that doing a great deal would cost a lot of money, thus implying that the government is not prepared to do anything which will not cost very much will have little effect.

Economic thinking in Britain may have advanced since 1975, but even then most people surely know that any proposal relying on financial incentives would depend for its effectiveness on how great were the resources devoted to it.

### David Blake

Investment reserve schemes, proposed by the National Economic Development Office, Millbank Tower, London SW1P 4QX; 75p.

## The French attack on unemployment



M Robert Fabre, man

of the left chosen

by President Giscard

to carry out a study

of job possibilities

Paris The new French budget is a tough one but at the same time optimistic, the product of a government which believes that it knows how to handle the economy and which is aware that most of the signs are that things are going well.

But, as in Britain, there is one factor which is not rosy and which is getting murkier all the time—unemployment. It was no coincidence that the cabinet meeting called to agree the budget also heard the new proposals put forward by M Robert Boulin, the Minister of Labour, to tackle the problem.

His task is somewhat that of a tightrope walker. He has responsibility to create jobs and to do what he can to silence the mounting fury of the unions about unemployment but he also knows that Mr Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister and present mastermind of the French economy, is not going to allow any relaxation in his policy simply in order to create jobs.

M Barre has made no secret of his view of unemployment as largely an emotive "myth" and that the various campaigns for jobs are being orchestrated by the communist Party for its political advantage. As M Barre sees it, there is an essential difference between what he terms "job seekers" and what he somewhat disparagingly terms "the unemployed".

M Barre is also determined not to baffle out lame ducks. He has taken what he says is the irreversible step of giving France a free market economy with the aim of making all companies more competitive because they can have total control over prices. Companies which still cannot survive can expect no direct help from public funds.

M Boulin's proposals must therefore be seen against the background of M Barre's views on the subject.

The main proposal is the creation of a special emergency fund worth 3,000m francs to be used at the discretion of a committee headed by M Barre to aid industries or areas that are in particular difficulty. The other positive measure is a total reorganization of the state employment agency.

Beyond that M Boulin's proposals are largely in the form of requests to the "social partners" of unions and management to agree about such things as the reduction of working hours—a law is promised on the end of the year—and in creating disincentives in the form of an extra tax on overtime.

While recognizing the gravity of the problem the Government has chosen the easy path of creating jobs in the public sector, except in service areas where it can be shown the work is for the direct benefit of the community and even there the aid is only temporary.

Whether or not the new scheme works only time will tell. Earlier plans in France have not been notably successful. Between 1976 and 1977 only 50,000 jobs were created instead of the planned 530,000. The im-

three parties making up the union of the left and hopeful then of contributing to the defeat of the Government and the curtailment of the powers of the President.

M Fabre's former colleagues on the left have been quick to brand him as a traitor for accepting the job.

Fabre has, of course, roundly denied the accusation that he has become the President's tame lap dog, although there can be no doubt that his recruitment marks an important step by the President towards the creation of his hoped-for consensus of government—a plank thrown across the great divide which runs between the left and the right in France. In the President's words, unemployment "demands the creation of new forms of national solidarity".

M Fabre has been asked to study the job prospects of three possibilities. These are part-time working, jobs for pensioners (which would reduce the cost of pensions to the state) and the improvement of training for young people in order to increase their mobility. Even M Barre admits that at the moment people wanting jobs often look for them in the wrong places. General Motors, for example, built a new factory near Strasbourg where unemployment is well above the French average. It nevertheless took over a year for the company to find the thousand new workers it wanted.

Part-time working is something which the Government has been experimenting with as an employer, but it has run into resistance to the idea in the private sector. In consequence only something like 5 to 7 per cent of the market is taken up by such workers, compared with 20 per cent in the United States. The extra social cost of employing two people to do the work which can be done by one is a big deterrent.

The training and mobility part of the brief is nevertheless clearly the most important, as the young will be shouldering the country's workload by the year 2000. M Fabre has been told to study increases in schoolwork courses and to investigate the possibility of enlarging the number of holiday jobs available.

He has already said that his report will not be able to resolve totally the problems of unemployment. Indeed, if he is to face looking at such things as jobs for pensioners and students it could be argued that the proposals he has been asked to consider can only aggravate the problem by taking work away from the main wage-earning age group.

But it is a report being prepared for use by a government which still believes that unemployment is merely a symptom of a weak economy and that by strengthening the economy the problem will resolve itself. M Boulin's measures are intended as no more than a bandage to cover the wound while the body heals. M Fabre's forthcoming proposals are more of a diet to keep the body healthy.

Ian Murray



## SUN ALLIANCE INSURANCE GROUP

### INTERIM STATEMENT

#### DIVIDEND

The Directors have declared an interim dividend for 1978 of 11.0p per share, costing £5.4m. With the tax credit of 5.418p per share the "gross" equivalent is 16.418p per share. Last year, the interim dividend was 10.0p per share, the "gross" equivalent being 15.152p per share.

Shareholders will also receive the deferred element of the final dividend for the year 1977 declared at the Annual General Meeting in May of 0.154p per share (0.230p gross), to pass on the benefit of the retroactive reduction in the rate of Advance Corporation Tax.

Both dividends will be paid on 5th January 1979 to shareholders registered on 1st December 1978.

#### ESTIMATED HALF-YEAR RESULTS

	6 months to 30th June 1978	6 months to 30th June 1977	Year 1977
Fire, Accident and Marine Premium Income	£m 268.2	£m 241.7	£m 465.5
Underwriting Result:			
Fire, Accident and Marine	(10.5) loss	2.8	1.1
Long-term Insurance Profits	1.4	1.1	2.7
Investment Income*	29.7	26.4	53.2
Other Income	0.1	0.1	0.2
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	20.7	30.4	57.2
Less Taxation	9.0	14.4	25.3
PROFIT AFTER TAXATION	11.7	16.0	31.9
Less Minority Interests	0.1	0.1	0.2
PROFIT ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDERS	11.6	15.9	31.7

\* After deducting Loan Stock interest

#### UNDERWRITING RESULTS

The half year's figures reflect the very heavy claims experienced in the United Kingdom in the early part of the year to which the Chairman referred at the Annual General Meeting.

There was a total underwriting loss of £6.9m on Home business which is more than accounted for by the abnormal weather claims, estimated at £6.5m, and exceptional fire losses. The Home Personal Account was particularly unprofitable and the Home Motor Account also showed an underwriting loss with an increase in claims frequency.

Profitable results were obtained in Australia and the USA but these were outweighed by underwriting losses incurred in several European countries.

The Marine Account for 1976 to be closed at the end of this year is expected to show a modest profit but at this stage no transfer has been made to Profit and Loss Account.

#### LIFE

##### New Life and Annuity Business:

	6 months to 30th June 1978	6 months to 30th June 1977	Year 1977
Sums Assured	£m 355.0	£m 299.4	£m 610.5
Annuities per Annum	14.5	14.5	26.6
Annual Premiums	8.6	6.5	13.0
Single Premiums	4.9	2.8	8.4

6th September, 1978.

Ross Davies

## Business Diary: Co-op counter attack

Anyone who believes democratic boardroom control is a thing of the past, or that the British might ever look like going on to the Labour Party, should look at the Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society, which recently abandoned its full-time executive board in favour of elected part-timers.

Unbowed by the shareholders' refusal last year to approve compensation for the loss of seven full-time directors with next week, the board is again asking for compensation plus a backdated salary increase.

Furious opponents are canvassing hard to stop the board receiving, for some of their 10 members, lump sums of £5,000 compensation as well as senior jobs until retirement (at the last salary).

The board, ignoring a defeat last March, is now returning to shareholders' meetings with a proposal to raise the pay of at least five of these new part-time employees to just over £10,000 a year, plus £5,000 compensation for four of the longest serving board members.

That might seem a modest enough salary in some quarters. But opponents have now uncovered the perks—such as an extra £500 for service as part-timers, telephone rentals, expenses, interest-free car loans, and the provision of American Express cards.

Strongest opponents seems to be the board's own political secretary, Richard Balfe, who says: "Some of these directors will retire on hefty pensions, a daily roundsman after 49

years' service gets the princely pension of £19,411 a week. When originally engaged, many members of the society, one of Britain's most successful retail co-operatives and previously the only one controlled by a full-time board, was that the old board awarded itself new pay arrangements without first consulting the employees and shareholder-members who vote them in and out of office.

Ironically, some of the directors involved are, far to the political left.

Spain's big state-run industrial cartel, INI (the National Industrial Institute) has lost more than 20 top executives and advisers in an unprecedented fat-rimming campaign inaugurated by the organization's new president, Juan Miguel de La Roca, according to reliable sources in Madrid.

All that an INI spokesman will say about the austerity cuts is: "We don't deny the reports."

The next target of the cut-back is said to be the governing boards of companies controlled by INI, such as the semi-official Spanish news agency, EFE, the big shipbuilding company Astilleros Españoles and Spain's most important aircraft manufacturer, Casa. In fact about 20 members of the boards of INI-controlled companies have already "resigned" and the sources say, and they will not be replaced.

So far, INI has not published the names of the surplus executives nor has it given any indication of how much the reductions have saved the cartel.

Founded as a national-socialist venture under Franco to stimulate and maintain vital industries, INI is the country's biggest industrial group, is responsible for 11 per cent of Spain's gross industrial product and employs nearly 6 per cent of the country's industrial workers.

Jacques de Larosière has been in office as managing director of the International Monetary Fund for more than two months, but his views on how the fund should be run or how the currency markets should be stabilized remain obscure.

According to fund officials the former French Treasury civil servant has started on a low key, diplomatically striving to avoid trouble.

He is politely refusing all press requests for interviews, saying: "I am making it a

general rule not to give interviews to individual parts of the media", although he will be giving press conferences at the start and end of this year's IMF annual meeting later this month in Washington.

Many fund officials are as ignorant of de Larosière's views on the monetary system as is the press. Thus his speech to the annual meeting of the fund in three weeks time will be particularly important, although if he maintains his present posture he may once again refrain from saying anything of particular note.

He seems deeply worried about the effects that any comments he makes might have on the currency markets, however, and it would be useful to have the benefit of his views.

In the spirit of greater disclosure, Richard Woolley, chairman of Beo Brothers publishing group, proudly proclaimed in the company's latest annual report that it "is presented in a different form this year. The aim is to give our shareholders, staff and many business contacts in this country and abroad a more detailed picture of the activities of the Benn Group".

Well, different it certainly is, for the copy we received tells us less than last year's report. Two pages headed "Directors" and "Directors' Report" are blank.

After all the fuss about long-life light bulbs, which included impassioned arguments before a parliamentary standing committee, the Consumers' Associa-

tion, which previously demanded they should be marketed in greater numbers, has now decided they are probably not worth buying anyway—just as a new 2,000-hour bulb, the Mazda Double Life, comes on to the market.

This month's issue of Which? published today, claims that such a long-life bulb is just what they called for in the past. But in the last year or so it points out, electricity prices have nearly trebled, while light bulbs have only gone up by about half.

With the cost of burning bulbs now more important than that of replacing them, and long-life bulb is just what they need for the same amount of electricity, the traditional 1,000-hour long-life bulb remains the magazine's "best buy".

Saturday Night Fever you may be familiar with: here, in Brighton, disco takes the form of Thursday Morning Music. At 9 o'clock this morning there started off all things, a disco dance at the Royal Albert Hotel. It isn't meant to be a function for revellers who have seen the dawn, although it is by no means impossible that such people will find their way there. Ostensibly, it is a function to keep awake up to 400 members of Ken Thomas's Civil and Public Services Association. They arrive about that time from all over the country for a luncheon anti-unemployment lobby of congress.



IMF's Jacques de Larosière: can't hear you, Jacques.





# PHOENIX ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

## Interim Statement

### ESTIMATED RESULTS TO 30th JUNE 1978

The following are the estimated and unaudited results of the Phoenix group of companies for the six months ended 30th June 1978 with the comparative figures for the corresponding period in 1977 and actual results for the full year 1977. Interim figures cannot be taken as a reliable guide to results for the full year.

	6 months to 30.6.78	6 months to 30.6.77	Year 1977
Net premium written: General (fire, accident, marine and aviation) —	175.4	174.6	323.0
Investment income —	19.5	17.1	35.9
Underwriting profit: General —	2.3	0.3	1.0
Long-term —	0.9	0.9	1.9
Less expenses not charged to other accounts —	0.6	0.5	0.9
Profit before taxation —	17.0	17.2	35.9
Less: Taxation —	6.0	6.7	9.4
Minority interests —	1.3	1.2	2.4
Net profit —	9.7	9.3	24.1
Earnings per share —	16.1p	15.6p	40.2p

Overseas currency transactions have been converted at rates of exchange appropriate to the periods in question. In converting US dollar transactions for the 6 months to 30th June 1978 a rate of \$1.87 has been used (\$1.72 for the 6 months to 30th June 1977 and \$1.92 for the year 1977).

Comparisons with 1977 have been distorted by currency fluctuations and the non-consolidation of a former subsidiary:

	As reported	After adjustment of 1977 figures
Premium income —	+0.5%	+7.1%
Investment income —	+14.0%	+23.5%

The net profit of £9.7 million compares with £9.3 million as published or £8.6 million after adjustment.

In the general underwriting accounts the United States has contributed a profit of £0.7 million (operating ratio 96.1) compared with a loss of £0.1 million (98.7) for the corresponding period of 1977. Canada also remains in profit.

In the United Kingdom the second quarter's fire and accident account produced a small loss but a much better result than in the first quarter.

In Australia pressures on rates levels produced an adverse underwriting result. Europe showed a loss but elsewhere overseas business was generally profitable.

### NEW LONG-TERM BUSINESS

	6 months to 30.6.78	6 months to 30.6.77	Year 1977
New sums assured —	925	557	1,100
New annuities —	7.2	6.0	13.9
New annual premiums —	7.7	5.2	11.5
New single premiums —	10.1	1.8	19.0

### DIVIDEND

The directors have declared an interim dividend of 5.112p (1977 4.578p) per share which, if the tax credit available to eligible shareholders of 2.518p per share is added, is equivalent to 7.630p (1977 6.936p) per share, an increase of 10%.

The directors have also declared a supplementary interim dividend of 0.088p per share. With the tax credit available to eligible shareholders of 0.043p per share this is equal to the reduction in the gross equivalent value of the final dividend for 1977 which resulted from the retrospective change to the rate of advance corporation tax.

The cost of the two dividends is £3.1 million (1977 £2.8 million) and they will be paid on 2nd January 1979 to members on the register at the close of business on 24th November 1978.

6th September 1978

## FINANCIAL NEWS

### Carrington bids £10m for J Compton

By Michael Clark

Carrington Viella, the textile group, yesterday launched a bid for J. Compton, Sons & Webb (Holdings), maker and distributor of uniforms, as was exclusively forecast in *The Times* yesterday.

Last night Lord Chelwood, chairman of Compton, described the bid as "inadequate" and said that after their board met the bid would be rejected. In the meantime, shareholders were asked to take no action.

The terms of the bid are four Carrington ordinary shares plus 30p in cash for every three Compton shares. This gives Compton an overall value of £9.9m or 58.7p a share.

Shares of Carrington, which at present has no stake in Compton, remained unchanged at 36p yesterday while Compton remained suspended at 43p.

A statement from Carrington said it was expected that the merging of the two companies would produce better long-term growth prospects for Compton, as a result of the application of the Carrington facilities in marketing.

Mr Leonard Regan, chairman of Carrington, said if the bid was successful, Compton would retain its identity within the group by operating as a



Mr L. Regan, chairman of Carrington.

separate division. As a result there would not be any redundancies.

The decision to make the bid for Compton was made some time back but was postponed when rumours sent Compton's share price up.

Talks finally got under way with the board of Compton only last Thursday following the suspension of the group's shares.

### Ladbroke Group in property venture

By Ray Maughan

Ladbroke's property arm has tendered successfully for a freehold development site, with planning permission from the Church Commissioners for England. The scheme, for which Ladbroke is paying around £710,000, will comprise 35 luxury flats on a church site in St John's Wood.

The gambling and hotels group has also purchased sites totalling 15½ acres for residential development in Bristol and Swindon and paid £450,000 for a 12½ acre industrial development site at Wilford, one and a half miles south of Nottingham.

The Wilford scheme will be regarded as prime when complete next spring and will have an estimated total development value

### IJ Dewhirst aiming for peak results

By Tony May

Steady growth has been maintained by I. J. Dewhirst Holdings, the biggest supplier of menswear to Marks & Spencer. On the back of a 25 per cent rise in turnover to £7.06m, pre-tax profits for the six months to July 14 are 20 per cent up at £504,000 and a similar growth rate should be maintained for the rest of the year. Mr Alistair Dewhirst, the chairman, feels that profits for the full year should be conservatively be £1.25m, against a 1977-78 record of £1.05m.

Earnings a share are up from 4.56p to 5.25p and the interim dividend from 0.68p to 0.74p gross. The board intends to raise the total for the year from 1.97p to 2.23p gross.

### Bank printing strike hits Portals

By Rosemary Unsworth

A Bank of England printing strike led to a fall in sales and profits for the security paper-making division of Portals Holdings, the bank-note-water-treatment group, to the first six months of June 30, 1978.

Group pre-tax profits rose by 17 per cent to £4.1m after a near-doubling profit in the water treatment and engineering division.

But two industrial disputes resulted in reduced turnover of £11.7m from £12m in the paper-making division and a fall in trading profit to £2.2m from £2.4m.

The group points out that the comparative figures for the first

half to June 30, 1977, have been restated to reflect the conversion of £932,000 of convertible loan stock to 640,000 ordinary shares. The restatement also includes the group's decision to treat its interest in Ion Exchange (India) as a trade investment.

Second-half results are unlikely to match those of the first although the group expects them to be up on last year's pre-tax total of £7.46p gross.

As has been declared against 5.303p, and the maximum will not exceed the 10 per cent increase allowed by dividend legislation, says deputy chairman, Mr Julian Sheffield.

Water treatment and engineering division profits jumped from £995,000 to £1.7m in the first half. However, "a comparison with the same period in 1977 is not appropriate due to an unusually low incidence of currency profit during that time", said Mr Sheffield.

Snibby Engineering, acquired in July and not included in first half results, should contribute about £100,000 by the year end, anticipates Mr Sheffield. Property division trading profits, which are up by nearly 30 per cent to £244,000, are expected to produce similar figures to last year's total of £276,000.

### NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

To the Holders of

### Esso Overseas Finance N.V.

9% Guaranteed Debentures Due 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the Indenture dated as September 15, 1970 providing for the above Debentures, said Debentures aggregating \$3,000,000 principal amount have been selected for redemption on September 15, 1978, through operation of the Sinking Fund, at the redemption price of 100% of the principal amount thereof, together with accrued interest to said date. Of the amount to be redeemed \$1,500,000 represents satisfaction of the mandatory Sinking Fund requirement and \$1,500,000 represents election by the Company to make an optional additional Sinking Fund payment. The serial numbers of the Debentures selected for redemption are as follows:

### DEBENTURES OF \$1,000 EACH

1010	1011	1012	1013	1014	1015	1016	1017	1018	1019	1020	1021	1022	1023	1024	1025	1026	1027	1028	1029	1030	1031	1032	1033	1034	1035	1036	1037	1038	1039	1040	1041	1042	1043	1044	1045	1046	1047	1048	1049	1050	1051	1052	1053	1054	1055	1056	1057	1058	1059	1060	1061	1062	1063	1064	1065	1066	1067	1068	1069	1070	1071	1072	1073	1074	1075	1076	1077	1078	1079	1080	1081	1082	1083	1084	1085	1086	1087	1088	1089	1090	1091	1092	1093	1094	1095	1096	1097	1098	1099	1100	1101	1102	1103	1104	1105	1106	1107	1108	1109	1110	1111	1112	1113	1114	1115	1116	1117	1118	1119	1120	1121	1122	1123	1124	1125	1126	1127	1128	1129	1130	1131	1132	1133	1134	1135	1136	1137	1138	1139	1140	1141	1142	1143	1144	1145	1146	1147	1148	1149	1150	1151	1152	1153	1154	1155	1156	1157	1158	1159	1160	1161	1162	1163	1164	1165	1166	1167	1168	1169	1170	1171	1172	1173	1174	1175	1176	1177	1178	1179	1180	1181	1182	1183	1184	1185	1186	1187	1188	1189	1190	1191	1192	1193	1194	1195	1196	1197	1198	1199	1200	1201	1202	1203	1204	1205	1206	1207	1208	1209	1210	1211	1212	1213	1214	1215	1216	1217	1218	1219	1220	1221	1222	1223	1224	1225	1226	1227	1228	1229	1230	1231	1232	1233	1234	1235	1236	1237	1238	1239	1240	1241	1242	1243	1244	1245	1246	1247	1248	1249	1250	1251	1252	1253	1254	1255	1256	1257	1258	1259	1260	1261	1262	1263	1264	1265	1266	1267	1268	1269	1270	1271	1272	1273	1274	1275	1276	1277	1278	1279	1280	1281	1282	1283	1284	1285	1286	1287	1288	1289	1290	1291	1292	1293	1294	1295	1296	1297	1298	1299	1300	1301	1302	1303	1304	1305	1306	1307	1308	1309	1310	1311	1312	1313	1314	1315	1316	1317	1318	1319	1320	1321	1322	1323	1324	1325	1326	1327	1328	1329	1330	1331	1332	1333	1334	1335	1336	1337	1338	1339	1340	1341	1342	1343	1344	1345	1346	1347	1348	1349	1350	1351	1352	1353	1354	1355	1356	1357	1358	1359	1360	1361	1362	1363	1364	1365	1366	1367	1368	1369	1370	1371	1372	1373	1374	1375	1376	1377	1378	1379	1380	1381	1382	1383	1384	1385	1386	1387	1388	1389	1390	1391	1392	1393	1394	1395	1396	1397	1398	1399	1400	1401	1402	1403	1404	1405	1406	1407	1408	1409	1410	1411	1412	1413	1414	1415	1416	1417	1418	1419	1420	1421	1422	1423	1424	1425	1426	1427	1428	1429	1430	1431	1432	1433	1434	1435	1436	1437	1438	1439	1440	1441	1442	1443	1444	1445	1446	1447	1448	1449	1450	1451	1452	1453	1454	1455	1456	1457	1458	1459	1460	1461	1462	1463	1464	1465	1466	1467	1468	1469	1470	1471	1472	1473	1474	1475	1476	1477	1478	1479	1480	1481	1482	1483	1484	1485	1486	1487	1488	1489	1490	1491	1492	1493	1494	1495	1496	1497	1498	1499	1500	1501	1502	1503	1504	1505	1506	1507	1508	1509	1510	1511	1512	1513	1514	1515	1516	1517	1518	1519	1520	1521	1522	1523	1524	1525	1526	1527	1528	1529	1530	1531	1532	1533	1534	1535	1536	1537	1538	1539	1540	1541	1542	1543	1544	1545	1546	1547	1548	1549	1550	1551	1552	1553	1554	1555	1556	1557	1558	1559	1560	1561	1562	1563	1564	1565	1566	1567	1568	1569	1570	1571	1572	1573	1574	1575	1576	1577	1578	1579	1580	1581	1582	1583	1584	1585	1586	1587	1588	1589	1590	1591	1592	1593	1594	1595	1596	1597	1598	1599	1600	1601	1602	1603	1604	1605	1606	1607	1608	1609	1610	1611	1612	1613	1614	1615	1616	1617	1618	1619	1620	1621	1622	1623	1624	1625	1626	1627	1628	1629	1630	1631	1632	1633	1634	1635	1636	1637	1638	1639	1640	1641	1642	1643	1644	1645	1646	1647	1648	1649	1650	1651	1652	1653	1654	1655	1656	1657	1658	1659	1660	1661	1662	1663	1664	1665	1666	1667	1668	1669	1670	1671	1672	1673	1674	1675	1676	1677	1678	1679	1680	1681	1682	1683	1684	1685	1686	1687	1688	1689	1690	1691	1692	1693	1694	1695	1696	1697	1698	1699	1700	1701	1702	1703	1704	1705	1706	1707	1708	1709	1710	1711	1712	1713	1714	1715	1716	1717	1718	1719	1720	1721	1722	1723	1724	1725	1726	1727	1728	1729	1730	1731	1732	1733	1734	1735	1736	1737	1738	1739	1740	1741	1742	1743	1744	1745	1746	1747	1748	1749	1750	1751	1752	1753	1754	1755	1756	1757	1758	1759	1760	1761	1762	1763	1764	1765	1766	1767	1768	1769	1770	1771	1772	1773	1774	1775	1776	1777	1778	1779	1780	1781	1782	1783	1784	1785	1786	1787	1788	1789	1790	1791	1792	1793	1794	1795	1796	1797	1798	1799	1800	1801	1802	1803	1804	1805	1806	1807	1808	1809	1810	1811	1812	1813	1814	1815	1816	1817	1818	1819	1820	1821	1822	1823	1824	1825	1826	1827	1828	1829	1830	1831	1832	1833	1834	1835	1836	1837	1838	1839	1840	1841	1842	1843	1844	1845	1846	1847	1848	1849	1850	1851	1852	1853	1854	1855	1856	1857	1858	1859	1860	1861	1862	1863	1864	1865	1866	1867	1868	1869	1870	1871	1872	1873	1874	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
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## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Stock markets

## Sentiment divided as index is unchanged

With City opinion divided between bullish and bearish sentiment, shares were subjected to conflicting influences yesterday and the FT Ordinary index ended the day unchanged at 503.5. This is the first time for 14 months that the index has closed as it opened.

A few market men are expected to make a forecast today. With both ICI and Guinness reporting second-quarter figures, there will be few deals, other than speculative bargains, transacted in the morning and afternoon. It is likely to make a fair line from the ICI figures. As the market continues to

a penny while Unilever at 572p, Courtaulds at 116p and GEC at 311p held steady.

BICC added a further 3p to 134p following Monday's good figures while Plessey came back a penny to 105p. Comment on Decca's figures dropped 10p from the "A" shares at 445p. Elsewhere in electricals EMI firmed 1p to 150p. Rascal added 4p to 334p while Electrocomponents at 585p and Thorn at 380p marked time.

Dunlop slipped 1p to 76p while in papers Reed firmed 3p to 170p and Bowater shed 4p to 198p in front of figures on Monday. Cadbury Schweppes eased 1p to 57p on rumours of a rights issue today, which the company subsequently denied.

In shipping P & O added 2p to 86p despite poor figures which had largely been discounted but helped by a main dividend. Ocean Transport & Trading firmed 3p

to 116p in active two-way trade. In insurance, the news was not so good. Sun Alliance tumbled 22p to 535p on a sharp profit setback while Phoenix slipped 6p to 244p and Guardian Royal Exchange fell 2p to 234p after interim figures. Royal Dutch firmed 7p to 370p in sympathy. Trading news also helped Hepworth Ceramic 3p higher at 94p, Fairbairn Lawson, 2p better at 74p and Morris & Blakey which climbed 5p to 84p. I. J. Dewhurst firmed a penny to 65p while Travis & Arnold went 2p better to 172p.

Despite a small bull position taken out before the figures, Group Lotus marked time at 46p in little business.

Investment buying of Dowty took the shares a further 7p higher to 277p while comment nudged Mairhead up 4p to 195p but by contrast clipped 5p from Centroway at 288p.

Brook Bond Liebig, which

has recently been subjected to some sizable chunks of shares passing through the market held steady at 47p despite news that a £21m Australian deal has been viewed while Mordin & Peacock firmed a penny to 83p after figures on Monday.

Australian shares were a buoyant market. CRA's announcement on its diamond find added 20p to the shares at 334p while Selection Trust at 464p and Tanks at 137p rose 20p each and Northern Mining firmed 2p to 156p. Other stocks to improve were Peko-Wallend 6p better at 570p and speculative stock Oza Exploration, helped by the oil strike in Queensland.

In banks Guinness Peer held steady at 252p following figures which as expected but Wagon Finance came back a penny to 43p.

Among the clearers, only Barclays, where the "new" top trading today, could

manage a gain, firming 4p to 347p. The others ended unchanged with National Westminster at 275p, Midland at 355p and Lloyds at 265p.

In drinks Distillers bounded 4p higher to 198p while Arthur Bell lost 2p of its recent gain to 270p. Highland held steady at 147p.

Speculative interest added a few pence to Norcross at 100p and Time Products at 186p while in jewellers Ratners at 68p and H. Samuel at 198p firmed a penny.

In properties Country & New Town which have been left behind lately, added 3p to 27p

ough High Street trading continues at Linford, which have already shown up in lower full-car profits, have taken their toll on the shares, down a fifth to 136p over the past week.

Commodity trading group, Guinness Peer, which took Linford was diluted to 4 per cent following the Wheatheaf acquisition, is still seen to raise its 17.8 per cent holding to over the 20 per cent. It is that level, it can consolidate and GP is likely to go any weakness in the shares to accomplish this.

wait an election date trading was took the limelight yesterday with both insurance and hipping attracting considerable trade.

In the gilt market there was little business as investors and callers are holding off for more inspiration. Shorts opened early and drifted an eighth up before some light buying took stocks back to their overnight levels. At the longer end of the same amount, were also regained by the close.

With American interest rates ill hanging over the market, L.R. is expected to continue unchanged today.

Of the leader stocks ICI at 10 and GKN, a recent weak not as bearish comment brings up some sellers, at 273p eased

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Div	Year
Int or Fin	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Anglo Amcn Inv	14.1(1.56)	22.2(21.7)	2.86(2.21)	2.86(2.00)	—	—(600)
Brian Cos (F)	1.4(1.56)	0.58(0.55)	0.87(1.1)	3.6(3.5)	29/9	3.5(3.5)
Cosalt (I)	14.7(11.8)	7.3(1.25)	—(2)	1.0(0.86)	4/1	1.28(1.18)
I. J. Dewhurst (I)	7.06(5.6)	0.6(0.5)	5.25(4.56)	0.5(0.45b)	27/11	1.53(1.32b)
Executec (I)	0.5(0.6)	0.08(0.03)	5.19(2.56)	1.0(nl)	—	—(nl)
Fairbairn Law (I)	5.8(6.9)	0.75(0.72)	4.84(6.34)	2.1(1)	27/10	5.19(3.64)
Gp Lotus Car (F)	8.17(5.63)	0.55(0.016)	4.7(0.3)	nl(nl)	—	nl(nl)
Guardian Ry	444.2(359.9)	29.3(26.3)	24.32(20.06)	4.65(4.23)	5/1	—(10.6)
Guinness Peer (F)	11.07(9.07)	11.07(9.07)	24.32(20.06)	6.0(6.45)	—	10.25(9.95)
H'worth Ceramic (I)	123.5(105.5)	14.8(12.8)	6.9(6.4)	1.75(1.55)	17/11	—(3.3)
L. K. Toas (I)	2.2(2.08)	0.164(0.162)	3.29(3.25)	1.45(1.3)	2/1	—(2.6)
Morris & Blakey (I)	5.07(3.9)	0.18(0.11)	—(—)	1.75(1.75)	29/12	—(4.11)
Movtex (F)	2.62(2.34)	0.19(0.02)	0.79(0.024)	0.33(0.1)	9/10	0.33(nl)
Newbold & B'noo (I)	4.47(3.59)	0.22(0.16)	—(—)	1.32(1.19)	24/10	—(2.79)
P. & O. Steam (I)	524.3c(468.2c)	1.12(0.99)	2.39(2.1)	3(3)	4/1	—(6.54)
Phoenix A-orce (I)	—(—)	17.0(17.2)	16.1(15.6)	5.11(4.57)	22/12	—(10.34)
Portals (I)	37.5(36.1)	4.1(3.5)	10.72(9.72)	3.85(3.5)	26/12	—(7.78)
Ratork (I)	8.9(7.02)	1.45(1.4)	7.5(7.4)	0.65(0.58)	3/11	—(1.18)
Rowton Hotels (I)	2.12(1.89)	0.45(0.36)	—(—)	2.74(2.45)	30/10	—(6.25)
Sun Alliance (I)	—(—)	20.7(30.4)	—(—)	11.0(10.0)	5/11	—(20.15)
Travis & Arnold (I)	30.6(23.8)	2.17(1.99)	—(—)	0.77(0.69)	1/11	—(3.4)
Wagon Finance (I)	5.17(4.58)	1.3(0.81)	2.5(1.88)	0.62(0.62)	27/10	—(2.06)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.49. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a Forecast. b Adjusted for scrip. c Gross revenue. d Loss. e Rand. f Cents. g Excludes 0.026p extra payment.

## Recovery well under way at Group Lotus

Ray Maughan  
Group Lotus Car Companies  
on the approach road to recovery. Pre-tax profits in 1977 reached £57,000 against just £17,000 and when the group repays the first instalment later this month on the life-saving £2m loan from American Express International Banking Corporation, it can reflect that production and demand are rising.



Mr. Colin Chapman, head of Group Lotus.

Turnover amounted to £8.1m against £5.64m as Group Lotus, aided by Mr. Colin Chapman, posted production from 940 to 870 models. Finance director, Mr. Fred Bostell, estimates that one 800 vehicles left the production lines in the first eight months of the current year and output is now running at approximately 30 cars each week.

Demand has been accelerated by the antics of an "Esprit special" in the last James and extravaganza. And for 1979, Group Lotus is banking on the efforts of Mario Andretti and Ronnie Peterson keeping Lotus 78 racing cars pole position throughout much of this year's Grand Prix season to lift customer interest. Lotus road models.

There is no dividend again this year and the post tax sur-

plus amounted to only £167,000 against £127,000. However, attributable profits in 1976 were inflated by the £110,000 surplus on the sale and lease-back of plant while net profit last year bore the £108,000 cost associated with Amex's funding agreement.

The annual report, due in a fortnight, will indicate the level and treatment of development expenditure.

## Fishing cutback hurts Cosalt

By Rosemary Unsworth

Cutbacks in British, distant water fishing and a poor summer with reduced activity in the caravan and air conditioning divisions have resulted in Cosalt making only a 4 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £1.3m.

The Grimsby-based chandlery, refrigeration, finance, and caravan group produced a 24 per cent increase in turnover to £14.7m in the 26 weeks to July 2, 1978. Trading margins fell to 10.5 per cent compared with 13 during the same period last year when the overall margins were 11 per cent.

An interim dividend of 1.49p gross has been declared and the board hopes to propose a final of 1.92p, making a maximum of 3.41p gross. It has been prevented by the latest dividend controls from paying last year's total of 4.6p a share which it wanted to repeat following the one for two scrip issue at the beginning of the year.

The proposed maximum which represents an 11.67 per cent increase, will be paid when the year's results are known.

## Fairbairn spurs shares

Interim figures from Fairbairn Engineering group, show that the group is well on the way to reaching its target of £1.7m for the full year as indicated in *The Times* yesterday.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to July 30 have increased by 3.6 per cent to £747,000 over the corresponding period, after a turnover rise of 27 per cent to £8.8m.

Sir John Lawson, chairman, said results in the first six months were close to the target and the board was looking for improvement in pre-tax profits

to continue in the second half. Treasury approval has now been received for the group to implement its dividend policy which has enabled the board to declare an interim dividend of 2.98p gross as against 1.49p. At the same time, the board is proposing a final dividend of 4.59p gross, making a total for the year of 7.57p, compared with 5.52p last time.

News of the group's performance put the shares up 2p to 74p yesterday.

In the main prices have been squeezed due to fierce overseas competition.

## Wagon Finance up 60 pc at halfway

The interest-rate switchback move against Wagon Finance, one of the last remaining independent finance houses, in the second half, which means that the 60 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £1.31m in the first half is unlikely to be repeated.

With lower interest rates in the first half, Wagon's money costs dropped by £300,000 despite increased borrowing in finance a high level of instalment credit. In common with other hire purchase groups, Wagon has seen a big increase in its business with new credit agreements up 31 per cent in the period to leave credit balances at a record £43.9m at the end of June. Despite this the dividend has only been maintained at 0.93p a share gross and the shares eased 1p to 43p.

## Interim increase at Rotork

A modest increase in profits for the half year to June 30, has been achieved by Rotork in a difficult and highly competitive international trading climate. Turnover rose from £7m to £8.5m, and pre-tax profits from £1.4m to £1.45m. Earnings a share went up from 7.4p to 7.5p and the interim dividend from 0.87p to 0.96p gross.

The marine divisions had an unsatisfactory start to the year, but corrective action is expected to show through in the second half. Margins at the controls and engineering divisions remain under pressure.

## Morris &amp; Blakey doing well

A rise of 55 per cent in a pre-tax profit of £182,500 has been achieved by Morris & Blakey Wall Papers for the six months to June 30. Turnover went up 29 per cent to £5.07m.

The board is paying a dividend of 2.6p against 2.65p gross. The group continues to close its small stores, and is concentrating on the purchase and opening of larger ones. If the improved market conditions continue, a profit for the full year should show a considerable improvement on last year's £311,000.

## J. James buying plastics group

John James Group is taking over W. H. Boddington, a private company, for £685,000. Boddington, which manufactures specialised plastic products in Kent, made £219,000 pre-tax profits in the year to July 31, 1977.

John James intends to expand the business along its present lines and it is a further development for the group's plastic division.

## "Opinion Leaders" Views

What do British and European "Opinion Leaders" think about the relative importance of their institutions? What are their readership patterns? An indication is given in the summary reports of

## "British Opinion Leaders"

and

## "European Opinion Leaders"

Two surveys commissioned by The Times, carried out by an independent research company. Copies available from The Times, Marketing Dept., PO Box No. 7, New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ.

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## Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	10%
Barclays Bank	10%
BCCI Bank	10%
Consolidated Crds	10%
C. Hoare & Co	10%
Lloyds Bank	10%
London Mercantile	10%
Midland Bank	10%
Nat Westminster	10%
Rosminster	10%
TSB	10%
Williams and Glyn's	10%

## South Glamorgan now has V.I.P. status

An extra £13 million is being spent by the Government through the Welsh Development Agency to encourage industrial development in South Glamorgan over the next three years.

The money will provide sites and factory building - 250,000 square feet over the next 18 months.

Generous Government assistance can include grants of 40 per cent, low interest loans - also 40 per cent - and two years free rental.

This vigorous industrial programme is concentrated in South Glamorgan to offset the closure of the S.E.C. East Moors Steelworks.

It offers you, the industrialist, a Very Impressive Package.

**South Glamorgan**  
the V.I.P. county

Contact: Rhodri Morgan, Industrial Development Officer, County Headquarters, Telephone 0222 489022.

## HAMPTON GOLD MINING AREAS

"Acquisition of Wulstax Machine Co. Limited extends foundations on which the Group is being built."

James Ley, Chairman.

## NICKEL MINING ROYALTIES

Income related to realised values rather than profits provides a hedge against inflation. Rights extend to 2009.

## COAL MINING

Great Row Colliery operating under licence from N.C.B. maintains satisfactory record.

## COAL MINING EQUIPMENT

Worldwide plans for increasing coal production offer good prospects for Wulstax.

## NORTH SEA

Exploration well to spud in shortly upon Block 20/7.

## MINERAL EXPLORATION

Investigation of mining opportunities in Australia currently in hand.

Profit after tax for year to 31st March 1978 amounted to £342,210 giving earnings per share of 8.2p (1977 7.0p).

Substantial increase in earnings per share expected in current year following acquisition of Wulstax.

Dividend of 3.5p a share for year to 31st March 1979 on increased capital has received Treasury approval.

Copies of Report and Accounts available from The Secretary, Hampton Gold Mining Areas Limited, 1 Vintners' Place, London EC4V 3DP.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited  
25-27, Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 7AP (Tel. 01-555 5551)

The Overseas Counter Market

1977-78	1978-79	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	P/E
66	29	Airsprung Ord	66	-5.5	8.2	8.7
63	20	Airsprung 183	188	-18.5	9.8	
46	25	Armstrong & Rhodes	45	-3.6	8.0	8.2
40	105	Bardon Hill	180	-12.0	6.7	9.8
40	51	Deborah Ord	140	-17.5	4.0	8.7
29	108	Deborah 174	174	-17.5	7.3	
47	120	Frederick Barker	129	-12.4	9.6	5.1
153	135	George Black	150	-15.0	10.0	5.6
58	36	Jackson Group	54	-5.0	9.2	6.3
116	55	James Burroughs	115	-6.5	5.7	10.6
140	188	Robert Jenkins	310	-29.7	9.6	5.1
24	9	Twinkl Ord	20	-	-	17.9
82	54	Twinkl 12% ULS	77	-12.0	15.6	8.6
83	54	Unilock Holdings	80	-7.4	9.3	8.6
120	67	Walker Alexander	118	-11.8	7.2	7.3

## MARKET REPORTS

## Wall Street

New York, Sept 6. - The New York stock market closed sharply higher today, however, the market closed beneath its best level of the session.

The Dow Jones Industrial average advanced 9.18 points to 12 points at its high for the session. It was ahead more than 100 points.

Volume totalled 43,700,000 shares compared with 32,170,000 Tuesday. About 1,300 issues gained with some 430 lower.

Owing to technical difficulties the Canadian prices have not been updated.

## Cocoa closes 3.20c up

New York, Sept 6. - Cocoa futures closed 3.20c higher on a steady market. The market was mostly flat, with some activity in the near term. The market was mostly flat, with some activity in the near term. The market was mostly flat, with some activity in the near term.

## Commodities

Gold - London, Sept 6. - Gold prices were steady. The market was mostly flat, with some activity in the near term. The market was mostly flat, with some activity in the near term. The market was mostly flat, with some activity in the near term.

## Foreign Exchange

The dollar fluctuated throughout the day with scattered minor gains. The market was mostly flat, with some activity in the near term. The market was mostly flat, with some activity in the near term. The market was mostly flat, with some activity in the near term.

## Discount market

For the third day this week and the fourth successive business day, the discount market was up.

## Money Market

Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate 10 1/2%.

## Spot Position of Sterling

Month	Rate	Month	Rate
1 month	1.48	1 month	1.48
3 months	1.48	3 months	1.48
6 months	1.48	6 months	1.48
12 months	1.48	12 months	1.48

## Forward Levels

Month	Rate	Month	Rate
1 month	1.48	1 month	1.48
3 months	1.48	3 months	1.48
6 months	1.48	6 months	1.48
12 months	1.48	12 months	1.48

## Recent Issues

Issue	Price	Issue	Price
1	1.48	1	1.48
2	1.48	2	1.48
3	1.48	3	1.48
4	1.48	4	1.48

## Authorized Units, Insurance &amp; Offshore Funds

Unit	Price	Unit	Price	Unit	Price	Unit	Price
1	1.48	1	1.48	1	1.48	1	1.48
2	1.48	2	1.48	2	1.48	2	1.48
3	1.48	3	1.48	3	1.48	3	1.48
4	1.48	4	1.48	4	1.48	4	1.48
5	1.48	5	1.48	5	1.48	5	1.48
6	1.48	6	1.48	6	1.48	6	1.48
7	1.48	7	1.48	7	1.48	7	1.48
8	1.48	8	1.48	8	1.48	8	1.48
9	1.48	9	1.48	9	1.48	9	1.48
10	1.48	10	1.48	10	1.48	10	1.48
11	1.48	11	1.48	11	1.48	11	1.48
12	1.48	12	1.48	12	1.48	12	1.48
13	1.48	13	1.48	13	1.48	13	1.48
14	1.48	14	1.48	14	1.48	14	1.48
15	1.48	15	1.48	15	1.48	15	1.48
16	1.48	16	1.48	16	1.48	16	1.48
17	1.48	17	1.48	17	1.48	17	1.48
18	1.48	18	1.48	18	1.48	18	1.48
19	1.48	19	1.48	19	1.48	19	1.48
20	1.48	20	1.48	20	1.48	20	1.48
21	1.48	21	1.48	21	1.48	21	1.48
22	1.48	22	1.48	22	1.48	22	1.48
23	1.48	23	1.48	23	1.48	23	1.48
24	1.48	24	1.48	24	1.48	24	1.48
25	1.48	25	1.48	25	1.48	25	1.48
26	1.48	26	1.48	26	1.48	26	1.48
27	1.48	27	1.48	27	1.48	27	1.48
28	1.48	28	1.48	28	1.48	28	1.48
29	1.48	29	1.48	29	1.48	29	1.48
30	1.48	30	1.48	30	1.48	30	1.48
31	1.48	31	1.48	31	1.48	31	1.48
32	1.48	32	1.48	32	1.48	32	1.48
33	1.48	33	1.48	33	1.48	33	1.48
34	1.48	34	1.48	34	1.48	34	1.48
35	1.48	35	1.48	35	1.48	35	1.48
36	1.48	36	1.48	36	1.48	36	1.48
37	1.48	37	1.48	37	1.48	37	1.48
38	1.48	38	1.48	38	1.48	38	1.48
39	1.48	39	1.48	39	1.48	39	1.48
40	1.48	40	1.48	40	1.48	40	1.48
41	1.48	41	1.48	41	1.48	41	1.48
42	1.48	42	1.48	42	1.48	42	1.48
43	1.48	43	1.48	43	1.48	43	1.48
44	1.48	44	1.48	44	1.48	44	1.48
45	1.48	45	1.48	45	1.48	45	1.48
46	1.48	46	1.48	46	1.48	46	1.48
47	1.48	47	1.48	47	1.48	47	1.48
48	1.48	48	1.48	48	1.48	48	1.48
49	1.48	49	1.48	49	1.48	49	1.48
50	1.48	50	1.48	50	1.48	50	1.48
51	1.48	51	1.48	51	1.48	51	1.48
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64	1.48	64	1.48	64	1.48	64	1.48
65	1.48	65	1.48	65	1.48	65	1.48
66	1.48	66	1.48	66	1.48	66	1.48
67	1.48	67	1.48	67	1.48	67	1.48
68	1.48	68	1.48	68	1.48	68	1.48
69	1.48	69	1.48	69	1.48	69	1.48
70	1.48	70	1.48	70	1.48	70	1.48
71	1.48	71	1.48	71	1.48	71	1.48
72	1.48	72	1.48	72	1.48	72	1.48
73	1.48	73	1.48	73	1.48	73	1.48
74	1.48	74	1.48	74	1.48	74	1.48
75	1.48	75	1.48	75	1.48	75	1.48
76	1.48	76	1.48	76	1.48	76	1.48
77	1.48	77	1.48	77	1.48	77	1.48
78	1.48	78	1.48	78	1.48	78	1.48
79	1.48	79	1.48	79	1.48	79	1.48
80	1.48	80	1.48	80	1.48	80	1.48
81	1.48	81	1.48	81	1.48	81	1.48
82	1.48	82	1.48	82	1.48	82	1.48
83	1.48	83	1.48	83	1.48	83	1.48
84	1.48	84	1.48	84	1.48	84	1.48
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88	1.48	88	1.48	88	1.48	88	1.48
89	1.48	89	1.48	89	1.48	89	1.48
90	1.48	90	1.48	90	1.48	90	1.48
91	1.48	91	1.48	91	1.48	91	1.48
92	1.48	92	1.48	92	1.48	92	1.48
93	1.48	93	1.48	93	1.48	93	1.48
94	1.48	94	1.48	94	1.48	94	1.48
95	1.48	95	1.48	95	1.48	95	1.48
96	1.48	96	1.48	96	1.48	96	1.48
97	1.48	97	1.48	97	1.48	97	1.48
98	1.48	98	1.48	98	1.48	98	1.48
99	1.48	99	1.48	99	1.48	99	1.48
100	1.48	100	1.48	100	1.48	100	1.48



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## SECRETARIES

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